Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Electronic Equipment Company Manager Charged With Fraud

FL2804140093 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] On 27 April, the office of the prosecutor of the People's Court of Havana requested a total sentence of 20 years imprisonment for Cuban citizen Heberto Lopez Morales for fraud, acts detrimental to economic plans and state contracts, and falsifying documents. During the public hearing of case No. 223 of 1993, held at the First Criminal Chamber, the prosecution, headed by provincial prosecutor Jose Luis Toledo Santander, charged the accused with transgressions of the law in the sale of audiovisual, video, and other equipment. The accused was the general manager of Audiovisuales Caribbean S.A., which imported electronic equipment.

The extensive evidence provided by witnesses and investigations demonstrated the illegal operations conducted by the accused, such as violating Decree Law 55 of 1982 which prohibits the direct contracting of Cuban personnel by foreign enterprises. In this manner, it was demonstrated that he avoided the payment of salaries in hard currency to Cuban service enterprises and paid his employees in Cuban currency. For this reason, the Cuban economy failed to receive over $700,000. It was also demonstrated during the hearing that Heberto Lopez Morales violated customs laws, provided false information on sales, had noninventoried merchandise, diverted equipment, avoided taxes of $947,530, and violated established rules for the operation of a customs warehouse under the control of Audiovisuales Caribbean, S.A.

Lopez Morales, also in violation of the law, conducted retail sales to private citizens. He hid these sales by falsifying receipts that made it appear that the equipment had been sent to organizations or institutions. Other violations proven during the public hearing were the repeated falsification of sale documents to increase his profits, charging large personal expenses to the expense account of Audiovisuales Caribbean S.A., and giving countless gifts and perks to officials at different levels, employees, and friends. These gifts consisted of video equipment, radio recorders, color televisions, music equipment, food, clothes, items for personal use, trips abroad, hard currency gifts, and even cars.

According to the audit conducted by the State Committee for Finances on Audiovisuales Caribbean S.A., the accused, since the creation of the enterprise in 1986, conducted shadowy operations, dirty maneuvers, and questionable bank transactions to benefit himself and his cronies. Among the evidence provided by the experts of the State Committee for Finances, there is the general lack of accounting controls, and the transfer of $1.5 million of the company's money to 13 accounts under his and his wife's name in Cuba, Panama, the United States, and Italy. It was concluded that the initial capital for Audiovisuales Caribbean S.A. was, in short, created with funds from Cuban state organizations. In addition, Lopez Morales conducted illegal operations through another company, Plaza Trading Inc., which he created out of Audiovisuales Caribbean S.A., and was located in Colon's duty free zone in Panama.

The accused, as demonstrated during the hearing, hid his deception and illegal commercial operations under the ruse of being in contact with high level officials and pretending to benefit the Cuban state and support social programs such as the Video Room program through which Audiovisuales Caribbean S.A. obtained significant profits. The statement that the equipment for these facilities had been donated was false.

During the hearing, the prosecutor and the public defense lawyer, Humberto Aguilar Torres, made their respective statements. The trial was completed except for the sentencing and was conducted with all legal guaranties.

'Important' Leaders Said Convinced of Need To Separate Government Functions

PY2704151493 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Apr 93 Section 2 p 10

[Report by Luiz Carlos Bernardes]

[Text] Two important Cuban leaders have made exclusive revelations to FOLHA. They said that the most important Cuban leaders—Fidel Castro included—are convinced of the need to quickly separate the functions of the government and the party. "We know how important it is to separate the functions of the state, government, and parliament," one of the sources said.

"The idea is to establish something similar to the parliamentary system of government. In this system Fidel Castro would be president. He will have clear powers, will command the Armed Forces, and will direct the country's foreign affairs."

Economy Minister Carlos Lage is already secretary of the Council of Ministers, and depending on his performance could be appointed prime minister. The Cuban leadership is conscious that no one will be head of government, head of state, and Communist Party secretary general after Fidel.

Fidel seems convinced of this. The parliamentary system is seen as providing a good solution to the problem of Cuban succession.

According to both sources, the deadline for implementing this project is still in doubt, but it does not depend solely on a more flexible U.S. blockade. "Changes will be implemented quickly if our economy continues responding favorably to foreign investments."

Another important factor before changes are implemented will be the performance of the recently elected parliament and provincial assemblies. "We have to get

rid of the Soviet model we use by eliminating, for instance, the excessive development of the state and party. We also have to get rid of this suffocating centralization," the sources said.

Cuban Federal Deputy Julio Garcia said that it is essential for the National Assembly to quickly occupy its right place and start legislating, accompanying and controlling the administration.

In Garcia's opinion, it will also be essential for the municipalities, even through the provincial assemblies, to gain more powers, quickly reducing central planning. Garcia said: "There is great state and municipal creativity. For example, innumerable kinds of local industries are surfacing." Garcia warns, however, that the blockade might hinder decentralization, because it is precisely the government that must carefully define the distribution of scarce resources (foodstuffs, fuel).

With a more lenient blockade, Garcia believes the issue of a single party, which remains dogma in various segments, might be reviewed. Lazaro Barredo, another federal deputy, said: "We want to talk with everyone, even with Cubans living in Miami. The government has sent several messages that it wants them to live here again, to invest in Cuba."

Garcia said: "Strengthening our economy is the key issue. The development of our relations with the United States of America also depends on the development of our economy." Despite Bill Clinton's recent remarks favoring the enforcement of the Toricelli Law (tightening the U.S. blockade), Garcia's assessment is not pessimistic. He said: "Concerning the Clinton government, we have hopes."

The key figures in the Cuban Government are also aware of the fact that economic changes are having a political impact. According to former Cuban Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon, incentives for foreign investment and tourism represent a new reality and are contributing to transforming the society.

Another important government source admits: "Economic opening prompted dollarization. Our national currency has been largely devalued. It is not convertible, and dollars have even become the currency used by many of our institutions."

In Alarcon's opinion: "The situation is difficult, and there is discomfort among the people. Nevertheless, it is a mistake to interpret this discomfort as a rejection of the system."

Julio Garcia also believes that economic transformations have a political impact. Garcia said: "A growing number of Cubans are working in foreign companies, changing their standards of living and conforming to the capitalist rules of the game. If the economy really becomes more dynamic and employment grows, we will have to conduct a different type of political work so that people will understand that to have social justice and egalitarianism, we cannot have a consumer society."

Workers Federation President Comments on 1 May Commemoration

FL2804161893 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Interview with Pedro Ross Leal, president of the Cuban Workers Federation, by Antonio Resillez on the "Open Agenda" program—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Ross] You know that our people have a deep love for their freedom and rights. They have fought throughout the years for this freedom and rights and we cannot stop fighting against an action as aggressive as what the embargo represents for our people. We cannot surrender and just stand by this silent battle, which the Unites States, a great power, has waged for more than 30 years against a small country like Cuba.

It is an undeclared war but it does exist and it harms our economic, moral, and social interests. In short, it has caused large losses to the country's economy. It has interrupted our social process. When we called the people to battle against the embargo, we were again exercising our right not to remain quiet in the face of such a great injustice as this. Jose Marti said that to calmly watch a crime is the same as committing it and we cannot be calm faced with this crime that has been committed against our people over more than 33 years.

I was remembering, when you asked me the question, that famous embargo against Leningrad, which lasted more than 900 days. This embargo has lasted 10 times longer, this siege against our people, this visceral idea of wanting to suffocate our people, which arose during the first year of the revolution, an emerging revolution, when our people had attained liberty. The embargo against Cuba began with the suspension of the sugarcane quota around 1960 or 1961.

[Resillez] Pedro, do you think—let me repeat the question—do you think that the Cuban people's rejection of the embargo will affect the attitude of those who have imposed it on us?

[Ross] I think, in the first place, that we must maintain the fighting spirit of our people, which is one of the goals of this battle that we are waging. The second issue is that many countries, institutions, organizations, and governments in the world have condemned the embargo because it is unjust, inappropriate, anachronic, and therefore we also must tell these governments, nations, peoples, and institutions that we are fighting against the embargo here. This strengthens the fight and the battle and I am sure that it will strengthen the support for our fight to free ourselves from the embargo.

There is a new administration in the United States and if it is smart, I think it will have to pay attention to this

energetic, and at the same time, just claim of the Cuban workers and people on this 1 May.

[Resillez] Thank you, Pedro, but I also know that this is not the only goal of the 1 May activity. Could you quickly summarize what the other goals of the 1 May commemoration are?

[Ross] The 1 May activity also has the goal of showing, again, after 24 February, the firmness of the men and women of this people to defend their revolution and their accomplishments. It also has the goal of expressing that despite the difficulties that we are facing as a result of the embargo and other difficulties of a natural character, which have all added up recently, such as the epidemic of unknown origin that has arisen, we are fighting very energetically and effectively. From the first moment when the epidemic appeared—I am talking about optic neuritis—the leadership of the country, Comrade Fidel personally put himself at the head of the men and women, who are working, so that no one is abandoned. So that everyone, who has been affected by this illness, receives care and this has proven to be very effective.

As you know, one of the methods used is to increase the dosage of the Vitamin-B complex. The country is already making an extraordinary effort. Thousands of men and women have worked night and day to ensure....

[Resillez, interrupting] ....that these vitamins are distributed.

[Ross] Exactly. Therefore, I am telling you that we are fighting. We are aware that the embargo will not be lifted tomorrow or the day after. We know it will be lifted some day because it is unjust and inappropriate, but meanwhile we will continue this battle. This is one of the goals. We approach 1 May undertaking the difficulties that we face today and we are determined to fight and overcome them and move forward with our social project.

The other goal is very important. It is that this 1 May has been dedicated to honor Cuban women, especially the woman worker, exactly because of the special period conditions; it is the women, the woman worker, who is most affected. She leaves very early in the morning with her children to take them to the day care center where she leaves them to go to work to mark her attendance card so she is not absent. She meets her work responsibilities and then returns to pick up her children and go home. In short, she has to face the problems of the house and the difficulties that we have. This is the third aspect and goal that we are pursuing for this 1 May program. [passage omitted]

Third Provincial People's Councils Meeting Held 27 Apr

FL2804021693 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] The need to continue consolidating the ties between local administrative directives and the people's councils was one of the most important topics discussed today during the celebration of the third provincial meeting of people's councils that was held in the area of Tapaste.

On this occasion, the meeting evaluated the work developed by the 81 people's councils of Havana Province and other aspects related to the operation and organization of the country's new type of government. Valuable experience that ranged from the production of various items for the population to the initiatives in the areas of commerce and dining, using resources obtained in the locality, were demonstrated to the participants as being the best expression of the unlimited possibilities of our people's councils and of the work that is being developed in these sectors in Havana. Furthermore, the characteristics of the assessment process were discussed. These assessment assemblies were announced to be held in September and October.

During the closing of the meeting, Ricardo Alarcon, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, spoke of the essence of this new process and about some of its characteristics.

[Begin Alarcon recording] It seems to me that we should view these activities of the next assessment assemblies in all their importance. As has already been said, we are seeking to eliminate established formalities, routines, and bureaucratic spirit in administering these assemblies. This does not mean that they should not be well prepared. On the contrary, it is not a matter of preparing the delegate, as a comrade said earlier, but to adequately prepare the assembly so that it becomes what it should truly be: the most important political and social event of a specific province. [end recording]

Alarcon stated that the perfection of government organizations is an important task. Contact between provincial delegates and ANPP deputies and the population they represent will make the next assessment assemblies important events.

The best councils as well as the most outstanding municipalities, among which are San Antonio de los Banos, Jaruco, Nueva Paz, San Nicolas, and Madruga, were awarded during the third meeting of people's councils held today in Havana Province.

PCC Central Committee Member on Sancti Spiritus Progress

FL2404171093 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] One of Sancti Spiritus Province's main objectives is that the Uruguay Agroindustrial Complex conclude

the sugar harvest between 12 and 14 May, which is what Jorge Valdes Rodriguez, a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] and PCC first secretary for Sancti Spiritus Province, told me. Valdes said there has been a perceptible drop this year, but cane recovery is being worked on. In 1992, 920 caballerias of sugarcane were planted, and in the next (?campaign), there will be another 1,000.

In the construction materials industry, there is the capacity to make 20 million bricks. There are plans to produce 100,000 first-quality creole tiles for the tourism and biotechnology sectors, and a production line of tiles made of fiber-cement is under construction. This line, which will have the capacity to produce 2.4 million square meters of tiles, is to begin operation in the last quarter of 1993.

In a special interview by Radio Progreso, Jorge Valdes said that a program of 2,000 low-cost housing units is being worked on.

[Begin Valdes recording] At present, we have 2,000 housing units already distributed, although the program has not yet begun. We have authorization to finish and materials with which to finish 700 housing units. We have 2,000 units already distributed. An example: The Uruguay Mill has 500 housing units assigned to it. It is already building, right now, two settlements of 50 housing units each, out of the 150 [figure as heard]; the program provides for approximately 500 housing units.

The (Guanao) Miscellaneous Crops Enterprise, which is the most important enterprise we have—the one that produces onions, garlic, etc.—has 300 housing units assigned to it in three settlements. We are to discuss that program this month. The specifics have not yet been decided, but it is with this idea that we are carrying out the construction of materials-efficient housing units.

In Sancti Spiritus, the capital, we have [word indistinct, three...[pauses] another three (?miniorganizations). Now, because of our housing problem, we are studying, as the second priority, the municipalities of Trinidad, Cabaiguan, and Yaguajay. That would be priority two due to the situation we have, first, the capital and then Trinidad, because we have some tourism construction there, as you surely know, and we have social problems; and besides, we must give the population the hope, the perception that we also build houses. [end recording]

As for tourism, Valdes said that Trinidad is indeed the nation's fifth tourist hub, and that it showed important growth last year. The People's Government is working at recovering centers and installations in Trinidad and new welcoming units are being built. These units are well received by the population.

The food program is strong in Sancti Spiritus, Valdes Rodriguez said, and the goal is that every municipality and organization become self-sufficient in grains, tubers, and vegetables. The three miscellaneous crops enterprises can guarantee 5 million quintals of tubers and vegetables, while, with the contribution of the small farmers, all together some 8 million quintals can be attained.

They expect to be able to distribute to the populace 30 pounds per capita of these products this year.

Sancti Spiritus is achieving a harmonious development in all spheres of life, the provincial PCC secretary said in his exclusive interview by Radio Progreso. The province, which has 434,000 inhabitants in its eight municipalities, has an infant mortality rate of 6.3 [per 1,000 live births]. Only Cienfuegos has a lower rate. Sancti Spiritus has 70 organized People's Councils, and over 90 percent of the population is grouped into this way of governing.

Union of Young Communists Holds Debate Plenum 27 Apr

Meet With Eastern Army Members

FL2704230693 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1956 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Young men and women attending the Union of Young Communists' [UJC] discussion on young workers being held in the city of Holguin have had a fraternal meeting with members of the Eastern Army. The group, made up of over 20 young people from different parts of Cuba, visited that command's staff very early in the day and later visited the (El Mijiales) Farm, where they worked weeding beans. In the afternoon, the group marched to a large tank unit, where they planted trees and exchanged experiences with officers, sergeants, and enlisted men. They also visited the microjet area at (El Pase), in Cacocum Municipality, an agricultural installation that has over 20 caballerias planted in plantains, the production of which, attended wholly by revolutionary Armed Forces soldiers and civilian workers, is earmarked for the province.

First Secretary's Remarks Noted

FL2804122693 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] In Holguin, the young workers debate plenum in which young people from Granma, Santiago de Cuba, Las Tunas, and Holguin Provinces participated has ended. It was interesting to learn the results of implementing the perfect type youth shifts in the nickel industry's plants to improve metallurgy efficiency, as well as about the experience of the youth of Granma Province, not only in fighting crime but also in preventing it.

Discussed during the plenum held between the sixth and seventh Union of Young Communists [UJC] congresses were all the things young workers do to raise production at factories, in workshops, the food industry, and in agriculture. It is necessary, however, to increase vigilance and the political work so as to avoid economic crime, which is still occurring in certain places.

Juan Contino, first secretary of the UJC's national committee, talked about the most important tasks of the moment: the search for energy sources; becoming more efficient in reviving moral and patriotic values; and how to strengthen the work of the UJC at the base level, in each work center, to the same levels reached by the municipalities and provinces.

Eastern Army Staff Inspects Camaguey Municipality Defense Potential

FL2804212193 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1947 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Camaguey Municipality's defense potential, the possibilities for putting it to use, and its level of preparation were the main objectives of an inspection visit by a commission from the Eastern Army staff during its second day of work in Camaguey Province. Eastern Army specialists verified the progress of defense tasks in the province, including rifle-firing ability, by day and by night, of a company from the 489th Regiment of the Territorial Troops Militia, two production and defense brigades, and other groups.

The municipal staff's officers also participated in a joint training exercise during which the commission assessed the municipal organization's capacity for successfully facing up to a combat mission. Camaguey Municipality was found to be making progress in building civil defense tunnels and in maintaining and preserving combat techniques and armaments.

More Than Scheduled Electrical Service Interruptions Noted

FL2804022593 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] This week and last, there have been more interruptions in electricity than scheduled, mainly in the nation's central and eastern provinces, due to a lack of fuel at the Diez de Octubre Thermoelectric Plant in Nuevitas and breakdowns at the Rente Thermoelectric Plant in Santiago de Cuba and at the Mariel Thermoelectric Plant in Havana.

Because of the nature of these breakdowns, the repairs take time and it is estimated that the current regimen of power outages will continue over the next 10 and for the first 15 days of May. [sentence as heard] To do this, a new schedule of power outages will be drawn up in each province and the population will be informed of this schedule in due time.

The workers of the power plant maintenance enterprise and of the Rente and Mariel power plants are working intensely to effect the repairs as quickly as possible.

International Medical Technology Fair Concludes

FL2904022893 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Excerpts] The sixth international medical technology fair called "Health For All" concluded today. The conference ended with many commitments for future accords on importing and exporting raw materials, medicines, and medical equipment, among other items. Among the trade agreements that will be established in future contracts are joint production ventures in the veterinary field, pharmaceutical industry equipment, and the establishment of joint enterprises and clinics for protecting mankind. An example of these agreements is the Agreement of Representation signed between the Heron SA Laboratories of Cuba and the (Isadis Limitada) from Colombia to introduce (quietina), a medicine that reconstructs damaged tissues. [passage omitted]

Among the many donations given to Cuba, the Belgian firm (BDC), the Italian firm (Fastre), and the medical equipment enterprise of Havana donated flow slides for surgery rooms, which were jointly produced by the three enterprises. The (Intermed Label Medech) company from Germany donated 574 breast prostheses. The (Ajen) enterprise from Spain gave our country a large amount of radiographic and protective accessories.

"Health For All" concludes with a large number of achievements for our medical and pharmaceutical development and with a wider opening of doors through which our products must pass to be introduced on the international market.

Distribution of Vitamin Complex Aims To Prevent Optic Neuritis

FL2804184493 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] As was said in the Public Health Ministry note, published in GRANMA on 3 April, which explained the optic neuritis situation, the distribution of a vitamin complex as a preventive supplement, called Neo-Vitamin II, is being carried out. This complex contains Vitamin A, Vitamin B-1, Vitamin B-2, Vitamin B-3, Vitamin B-6, folic acid, Vitamin B-12, and (?niacin). These elements are in a dosage that satisfies vitamin requirements for all ages.

The recommended dosage is as follows: For children 1 month to nine years old, half a pill daily; for those nine years old and older, one pill daily. For the pregnant, the pill will supplement the established prenatal treatment. The Neo-Vitamin II dosage does not have side effects and can be taken any time in the day.

The free distribution of the Neo-Vitamin II is being carried out by the family doctor program and in those provinces, which are not covered by this program, by polyclinic and corresponding medical personnel, with the support of the Peoples' Councils and mass organizations. This vitamin complex has already been distributed

in Pinar del Rio, Havana City, and Holguin Provinces and continues to be distributed in the rest of the provinces. The Special Municipality of Isle of Youth should be at the same level as the other provinces by 1 May.

The raw materials necessary to guarantee the distribution of this vitamin complex to the population for six months have been assured. It is recommended that everyone take their corresponding dosage. Taking greater quantities will not have any effect. Future supplies are guaranteed for as long as they are necessary.

Article on Optic Neuritis Criticized for 'Slander'

FL2704200293 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 Apr 93

[GRANMA article by Lazaro Barredo Medina: "Fables, Paranoia, and Bad Faith"]

[Text] The article points out that any pretext, any incident of any nature is a good excuse to try to present a preposterous image of the revolution to the world. That is what is happening now with the disease of optic neuritis. Already, an image of a country in complete disintegration is being projected and a message sent that all Cubans live in endemic and widespread famine, as with some Third World countries.

In reality, what they are trying to do is discredit the effectiveness of our health system and the efforts we are making in the food program under adverse conditions. What they are trying to do, in terms of the health sector, is belittle the credibility of our scientific and medical fields. The article says that our specialists have researched the complete universal medical bibliography on neuritis, information on which there is very little and is scientifically scarce.

Meanwhile, the government is preventing the consequences and is carefully studying the causes of the illness and with all the resources available is establishing new and various treatments to check the harmful effects of the neuritis. The article specifically notes the free distribution of 1.8 million vitamin-B complex pills, a preventative effort designed to protect all our men and women.

The article recognizes the great shortage of essential foodstuffs, which the country is confronting as a consequence of the siege, the loss of traditional markets, and the weather situation of the past several months. It stresses the enormous efforts being made by the state to prevent the consequences of the disease and to guarantee food for the people.

It also mentions that the foreign agency news cables overlook the very real fact that the presence of this neuropathy in Cuba is still a mystery because of the very strange way in which it appeared and the way it has spread geographically. The article affirms that one cannot help thinking that there is something fishy about it. The article then recalls the dengue epidemic and how counterrevolutionary Eduardo Arocena admitted his part in CIA biological warfare actions against Cuba.

Nevertheless, this was not, nor is it now a factor of analysis for the defenders of objectivity. The article says that the real goal of this slander is to discredit all the efforts we are making to maintain our independence and not to weaken or bend under these truly extraordinary conditions. Deep down, this is what irritates and bothers them the most.

Santiago de Cuba To Expand Tourism With Caribbean

FL2904013593 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Friends, Santiago de Cuba will expand tourism links with the Caribbean this year, in a phase considered fundmental for its promotional sales drive in that market. Cuba is, of course, seeking to exploit the geographical proximity and historical and cultural affinity and use as a destination a part of Cuba where there is declining development in tourism activities. In this connection, there is already an optional direct flight from Jamaica, and operations from Colombia, Venezuela, and Mexico will begin soon. Agreements are also being worked out regarding other optional flights to Santiago de Cuba from the Dominican Republic, Aruba, Curacao, and Haiti.

Compensatory Trade Agreement Signed With Argentine Province

FL2804195593 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] A compensatory trade agreement designed to promote the development of trade relations between the Argentine province of Rio Negro and Cuba was signed today in the Foreign Trade Ministry.

The prospect of both parties' exchanging products as currency is the main goal of this agreement signed by Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas and Horacio Massaccesi, governor of Rio Negro Province.

Under the agreement, Cuba will provide health products such as genetic medicine, medical equipment, and biotechnological products of interest for Rio Negro Province.

[Begin Massaccesi recording] We have concentrated our efforts on our pears, apples and prunes, and on certain minerals essential to Cuban industry. This is a large amount for us. Certainly, the amount is not large in terms of international transactions. What we have seen is that we have also approved a technical banking agreement, which gives content, functionality, and speed to this agreement. Therefore, we are hopeful that this will be a model that we can reproduce as mutual needs arise between our province and the Cuban Government. [end recording]

Governor Massaccesi met with Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Council of Ministers.

Lazo Meets With Nigerian Senate Chairman

FL2804231093 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2002 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Nigeria's parliament seeks closer relations with Cuba. Nigerian Senate Chairman (Yochia Juhu) today expressed the Nigerian Senate's interest in closer relations with our National Assembly. Upon receiving Cuban Vice President [as heard] Esteban Lazo, the high-ranking Nigerian parliamentary leader said those ties could include an exchange of deputies from the two nations.

Lazo's meeting with (Yochia Juhu) took place in the city of Abuja, within the framework of activities being carried out by the Cuban vice president [as heard] at a regional conference on reparations to nations that have been victims of slavery.

After this forum opened yesterday, Esteban Lazo held a meeting with (Umberfun Abiola), a prominent businessman and chairman of the group of eminent figures who had requested the event.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Caribbean Community Labor Ministers Begin 12th Meeting

FL2904021293 Bridgetown CANA in English 2144 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, April 28, CANA—Caribbean Community (Caricom) labour ministers began their 12th meeting here on Wednesday, with a reminder of the region's economic troubles.

"Structural adjustment, economic stabilisation programmes, de-regulation, divestment, privatisation, trade liberalisation, and market-oriented economy are terms that have become part of our everyday vocabulary and pose powerful challenges to both management and labour," deputy Caricom secretary general, Frank Abdulah said. He forecast that the coming years will continue to present the region "with these powerful challenges."

Equally, he added, "they will present us with unique opportunities provided we are willing to focus on our possibilities rather than seek to cling to the outmoded patterns of the past." Abdulah said the region will have to interface with the wider world community if it is to reverse the present trends and achieve its fair share of global trade. But he said that while there was need for improved economic efficiency to meet that challenge, there was also a necessity for "a more positive and optimistic approach in managing productivity and change. Such an approach will demand from us greater creativity and skills, greater use of new techniques and technologies in a search for those non-traditional activities than can be realised in relatively small-scale but highly specialised operations".

The ministers will have a number of agenda items for consideration, among them a Caricom agreement on reciprocal social security benefits and the harmonisation of labour laws of the region. Other issues concern the promotion of small enterprise development in the region and the implementation of a regional strategy for Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET). Both the Caribbean employers confederation and the Caribbean Congress of Labour are to present papers to the meeting.

St. Lucia's labour minister, Louis George, in his address urged regional governments to appreciate, understand, and embrace the labour movement as "an indivisible part of the political system. Their views, ideas, opinions on matters of national development must be constantly sought", he said, adding that the idea of tripartite action "must not merely be bandied around, but should form an integral part of national development planning strategy".

The three-day meeting here will look at the structural adjustment programmes being implemented by a number of regional states.

George said: "One of the features of the structrual adjustment programmes is the reduced ability of large enterprise to continue to sustain current employment levels. It therefore behooves the individual to be able to be self-employed and to be able to sustain a small business, cottage industry, or some establishment." He called for the "establishment of vibrant job placement units" at the national level.

Caricom Chairman Denies Manley Acting as Commissioner

FL2904023093 Bridgetown CANA in English 2219 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, April 28, CANA—Caribbean Community [Caricom] Chairman Patrick Manning and former Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley have dismissed suggestions that Manley is acting in the role of Caricom commissioner as envisioned by the Ramphal Commission.

Manley and Manning explained the position while speaking to reporters after an hour long meeting at Manning's office in Port of Spain. Manley had come to Trinidad to discuss the problems of cruise ship tourism in relation to land-based tourism and the idea of an association of Caribbean states—recommended by the West Indian Commission headed by former Commonwealth secretary general, Sir Shridath Ramphal. Manley has been going through the Caribbean meeting heads of government on both issues. Manning said Manley was

feeling out Caricom leaders on the ACS idea before going on to Latin America to meet with leaders.

"The heads of government thought that because of Mr. Manley's experience and respect in the wider Caribbean basin, he constituted a proper person to be able to advance the cause of Caribbean integration by the ACS and asked him to confer with the presidents of non-Caribbean countries," said Manning, who is also Trinidad and Tobago's prime minister.

"Before doing so, it is necessary for Mr. Manley to have a clear idea of what the Caribbean heads are thinking and he has been doing that consultation," Manning explained. Manley said the search for some kind of form for an association of Caribbean states and the issue of the cruise ships are all a part of regional cooperation in which he had a special pleasure as "an unrepentant Caribbean integrationist" all his public life. When asked about the role he was to play and its similarity to that of the commissioner as envisaged by the Ramphal Commission's report, Manley said: "I have no such ambitions."

The West Indian Commission had recommended a panel of commisioners to ensure that decisions taken by the Caricom heads of government are implemented. The suggestion was rejected by the Caricom heads at a special session last October in Port of Spain in favour of a bureau comprising three heads of government and the Caricom secretary general. The Trinidad and Tobago prime minister said the role of commissioner as set out by the Ramphal Commission was different from the role that Manley was performing.

"The function that Mr. Manley is performing is mandated to him by the Caricom heads of government... What we have done is to utilise the experience and, of course, the credentials and image of Mr. Manley in the wider Caribbean to foster the dictates of the Caribbean Community. That makes good sense, does it not?" Manning asked.

Manning, Ex-Jamaica Prime Minister on Pressuring Haitian 'Military Rulers'

FL2804184693 Bridgetown CANA in English 1746 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, April 28, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Patrick Manning and former Jamaica Prime Minister Michael Manley have called for greater pressure to be exerted on Haiti's military rulers to bring an end to the political crisis in the French-speaking Caribbean island. The two were speaking in Port of Spain after an hour-long meeting Tuesday [27 April] afternoon at Manning's office where they discussed Caribbean tourism and the proposal for an Association of Caribbean States.

Prime Minister Manning said speaking from a Trinidad and Tobago position "you will have to tighten the screws" on the regime in Haiti, given its latest intransigence with regard to the proposals put forward by the United Nations special envoy Dante Caputo in conjunction with the Organisation of American States.

Manning who is chairman of the Caribbean Community said he had not as yet consulted with fellow heads of government. Manley said with the military government in Port-au-Prince still stalling it was necessary to go further than sanctions although he ruled out an invasion.

"You have to make the Army know and understand that you are willing to go further than the present sanctions—obviously invasion is out—but to go perhaps to the lengths of introducing oil to the sanctions.

"If they didn't feel at least the potential of further pressure, they would find a way to stall and they are still stalling. And I wait to see if anybody would exert further pressure. I hope they will," Manley said.

The Haitian military overthrew the democratically elected government of Jean-Bertrand Aristide in September 1991 and successfully resisted all attempts to reinstate Aristide.

Manning said he was disappointed by what has happened recently in Haiti, where the OAS mission is led by Trinidadian diplomat Colin Granderson.

"I had reason to believe that we could have looked forward to some progress by the OAS/United Nations team talking to the de facto government in Haiti. That has not come to pass.

"In fact it has gone the other way. What we now have to do is to review our own positions in the context of our stated objectives.

"I have not had a chance to speak to my Caribbean colleagues yet so I do not know what they would say. But the Trinidad and Tobago position is that you have to tighten the screws," Manning said.

Antigua and Barbuda

Prime Minister Bird Backs Son as Successor

FL2704131093 Bridgetown CANA in English 1207 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] St. John's, Antigua, April 27, CANA—Antigua and Barbuda's prime minister, Vere Bird Sr., is backing one of his sons, Lester, to succeed him when he bows out of politics. The elderly prime minister said Planning Minister Lester Bird has the experience necessary to lead the nation. But Bird Sr. said he would support whomever the ruling Antigua Labour Party (ALP) chooses to be its next leader.

Bird told the CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY that his son's regional and international exposure and experience

put him in the ideal position to take over. The prime minister plans to step down when his term of office ends next year.

"When he represented me abroad....., quite often, when he is at these international conferences and a spokesman was wanted (for the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States), though there were prime ministers around and he was only a deputy prime minister, they chose him to be the spokesman," Bird Sr. said.

"That leaves me to feel that he has the required charisma that they should choose him to be the spokesman.... And it seems as if they had the confidence in him and they appreciated his ability....

"Therefore he should prove to be a good representative of Antigua and a good leader of the country in the capacity of prime minister if he is chosen by the people.

"Because whoever the people choose I'm going to accept," Bird said.

The ALP will hold its annual convention next month. The agenda includes selection of a leader to replace Bird Sr. Lester Bird and Information Minister John St. Luce tied for the leadership of the ALP at a special convention last year. Efforts to end the deadlock failed.

Parliament Toughens Antidrug Dealing Legislation

FL2804013293 Bridgetown CANA in English 2045 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] St. John's, Antigua, April 27, CANA—The Antigua and Barbuda Parliament has toughened legislation providing for the punishment of persons convicted of drug dealing and other serious crimes. The Proceeds of Crime Act, passed Monday [26 April], provides for "tracing and freezing, seizure and confiscation" of the proceeds from drug trafficking and related crimes.

The law also makes it an offence to help any person retain or conceal any proceeds derived from the drug trade and it gives the authorities power to confiscate any property used in connection with or realised from the commission of drug offences.

During the debate, External Affairs Minister Lester Bird told parliament the law was one in a series which the international community was requiring every "civilised" country to adopt. Bird also said there was a need for national consensus to tackle the drug problem here.

"We cannot be partisan. The reality is that the young people that are involved transcend both sides of the political spectrum. Drugs do not discriminate," he said. Bird also told Parliament his name had been linked to the recent seizure of drugs aboard a Colombian ship by local police. The confiscated drugs had a street value of EC3 million dollars.

"Some people called and say to my (associates)... They catch your big man drugs, suggesting that I am involved with it," Bird said. "It is all politics and not just with the opposition but also within my own party. We cannot continue to treat this problem with that kind of triviality," he added.

Parliamentary opposition leader Baldwin Spencer, supporting the bill, said it was long overdue since Antigua and Barbuda was considered a major trans-shipment point for drugs in the Caribbean.

"I think that in our own interest we had an obligation and a responsibility to address this matter in a serious and a fundamental way. I am just wondering... whether it's not too little too late," he said.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Ukraine

FL2804121293 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1100 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Antigua and Barbuda has become the first English-speaking Caribbean country to establish diplomatic relations with the Ukraine. Antigua and Barbuda's ambassador to the Ukraine, Lionel Hurst says:

[Begin Hurst recording] The Government of Ukraine and Antigua and Barbuda proceed in a brotherly embrace to secure the freedom which our countries have both won. We look toward the future with a similar history as our guide. As fully sovereign states, our countries must determine for themselves how best to develop and to complete the transition which history and our peoples commenced. This task can be made less difficult by building friendships and earning the mutual trust and support of like-minded peoples. Ukraine and Antigua and Barbuda have begun that building process today under the direction of our able leadership and with the encouragement of our peoples. [end recording]

British Virgin Islands

Government Appoints Ad Hoc Committee on Foreign Investment

FL2904005193 Bridgetown CANA in English 1807 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands, April 28, CANA—The British Virgin Islands Government has appointed an ad hoc committee to advise on foreign investment, a government statement said.

The 10-member private sector-based committee is planning a public meeting to obtain views on the current investment climate in the territory and the types of investment that should be encouraged. The government statement gave no date for the proposed meeting.

Ronnie Skelton, manager of BVI Electricity Corporation, is chairing the committee. It will submit recommendations to Chief Minister Lavity Stoutt government in about six weeks identifying additional suitable projects for investment as well as any activities that the

government should immediately undertake to provide the right climate for such investment.

Head of the development planning unit, Otto O'Neal; director of tourism, Russell Harrigan; and permanent secretary in the chief minister's office, Lorna Smith, are government's advisors to the committee. Smith said the chief minister envisages a first class services oriented economy focusing on the continued development of tourism and financial services.

Dominican Republic

President Balaguer Swears In 2 New Government Officials

FL2704182693 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Dominican President Joaquin Balaguer has sworn in two new government officials. At his office in the National Palace, President Balaguer swore in Andres Moreta Damiron as Dominican ambassador to Venezuela by Decree No. 101-93. The president also swore in Luis Simon Terrero Carbajal as executive secretary of the Institute for Development of the Southwest, Indesur, by Decree No. 115. Mr. Terrero replaces agronomist Nestor Jose Melo. This information was provided by the president's public relations office.

President Balaguer To Receive Credentials of New Japanese Envoy

FL2804174193 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Excerpt] President Balaguer will receive on 28 April the credentials of Jasuki Ishigaki, the new Japanese ambassador to the Dominican Republic. According to a note from the presidential press office, the meeting is scheduled for 1100. [passage omitted]

Haiti

University Rector Urges Chamber of Deputies To Indict Aristide

FL2804210893 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] The rector of the university is urging the Chamber of Deputies to indict the ousted president. Professor Gerard Bissainthe, himself a former Catholic priest, believes that Father Aristide is guilty of the most horrible crimes that the history of Haiti has known. Mr. Bissainthe cites the destruction of the old cathedral of Port-au-Prince, destruction of the Apostolic Nuncio, and the crimes against Roger Lafontant and Sylvio Claude. Gerard Bissainthe also reproaches the ousted president for having conveyed the concept of active nonviolence, which translated to necklacing.

These are crimes, according to the rector, that require moral justice to impress future heads of state with the necessity of making an accounting to the nation. Mr. Bissainthe wishes the legislators of the lower chamber courage and the strength to try Father Aristide. It is the only way for parliament to achieve unity and cohesion, concludes the rector of Haiti State University.

Episcopal Conference Condemns OAS Embargo

FL2804205193 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] The Haitian Episcopal Conference [CEH] has again condemned the commercial embargo imposed by the OAS against Haiti. It has called this embargo inhumane and has invited the Haitians to reconciliation. The country has certainly experienced serious crises in the past, but it has never experienced such distress, say the bishops in a message to the Haitian people. In view of the consequences of these inhumane and restrictive measures in effect for over one and a half years in Haiti, we sent out a cry of alarm to the world community in November 1991, the bishops recall.

Let us point out that Pope John Paul II echoed this cry in his speech to the diplomatic corps in January 1992. The Haitian bishops have noted that the world remained deaf to this call. The Haitian bishops deplore the fact that until now—despite repeated interventions by the 22 Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Conferences, despite the messages sent to the international authorities, and to the organizations committed to defending human rights—nothing has been able to sway this attitude of refusing assistance to people in danger.

The bishops rise up against the moral and material distress into which the people have been plunged because of—the say—the ocean of lies and corruption, the use of violence and arbitrary force no matter what its origin or form, and the extreme poverty that is strangling the poorest people.

The bishops also worry about the threat of foreign interference under the pretext of establishing peace in a country that is not at war. Will foreign interference not bring consequences worse than the problems it is meant to solve, the bishops wonder. In conclusion, they call for the reconciliation of all Haitians and for the promotion of the new evangelization through the establishment of common pastorage under an interdiocesan pastoral plan.

Names of 3 Arrested Unionists Released

FL2804214593 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] The three General and Independent Organization of Haitian Workers officials arrested on 23 April are: Mr. Cajuste Lexius, secretary general of the organization; Phabonor Saint-Vil, also a secretary in the organization; and Sauveur Aurelus, union delegate in Gros-Morne. These people were arrested by the police on 23 April

while, according to the news report, they were leaving Radio Caraibes where they went to submit a note supporting the 26 April strike.

Political partisan Fils-Aime Clerge, National People's Assembly official in Les Cayes, was also arrested on 25 April, according to news received on 26 April.

In addition, Ricardo Chery was arrested on 21 April in Gonaives. He was still in prison until 26 April despite interventions for his release.

NEW YORK TIMES Says Army Involved in Drug Trafficking; FADH Protests

FL2704182293 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in Creole 1200 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Excerpt] In a note dated 26 April, the secretariat of the general staff of the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] protests the information published in THE NEW YORK TIMES on 25 April that the Army is reportedly involved in drug trafficking. According to the FADH secretariat, the journalist is leading a vast campaign to discredit and destabilize the Army.

The FADH questions the true intentions of Howard French and the objectives pursued through his desire to mix negotiations and drugs. According to the press release, the Army says that it will take measures to end the libelous reports against the Army and that it is willing to use any means. [passage omitted]

Central Bank Denies NEW YORK TIMES Money-Laundering Accusations

FL2804225393 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Central Bank authorities met with the press today following a NEW YORK TIMES article accusing it of laundering drug money. Rotschild is at the bank with a live report:

[Rotschild] Good afternoon. Impossible is the key word used by the governor of the Central Bank in denying the information published in the 25 April NEW YORK TIMES stating that more than $100 million deposited in the Central Bank last year came from a money-laundering operation by Haitian Army officers.

Governor Bonivert Claude brandished numbers to deny statements by U.S. journalist Howard French who quoted an international expert who follows the evolution of the Haitian economy. The governor of the Central Bank explained that the Central Bank does not receive deposits from individuals. The Central Bank deals only with national and international institutions. Governor Bonivert Claude also said that during 1992, only $79 million was registered in the monetary circulation of the Central Bank. It is therefore completely impossible that more than $100 million was injected into the monetary circulation of the Central Bank. [passage omitted].

Questioned about possible legal action against the U.S. journalist Howard French, the governor explained that they were not yet at that point and that the Central Bank board must decide as a whole on exactly what to do. He said that this article reflects an operation aimed at discrediting the institution that he manages. In any case, the governor let us know that during the crisis, the Central Bank has been able to manage [words indistinct].

Police Explain Arrests, Denounce Terrorist Acts

FL2804155093 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Port-au-Prince police have provided more explanations on certain arrests and have denounced at the same time various sectors that are trying to commit terrorist acts in the country. In a note issued on 27 April, the headquarters of the Military Department of the Metropolitan Area discussed the detention of certain citizens.

On 23 April, at approximately 1700, a patrol car began following a gray Toyota vehicle, with license number H-34 [corrects himself] H-4375, carrying four people after it suspected that two bullets had been fired from the car. The suspects were unable to cross Magloire Ambroise Avenue because of heavy traffic. One suspect, who had a bag in his hands, fled while the other three pretended to be trying to fix something in the car. When the military asked them for explanations regarding the weapons and the shots they heard, the suspects became abusive and even called one of the military personnel a servant. There was then a violent discussion and a fight ensued. The police managed to control the three individuals. They were taken to police headquarters in Port-au-Prince.

The Headquarters of the Military Department of the Metropolitan Area states that it deplores this incident and that—given that those men were under control—there was no reason to beat them up. The general headquarters condemns this kind of attitude that various sectors in the country have, which is that they would like to disturb public order with terrorist acts in the future. The command will never stop denouncing all terrorist actions.

Jamaica

Prime Minister Pays Tribute to ANC's Tambo

FL2904005393 Bridgetown CANA in English 1823 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, April 28, CANA—Jamaica's Prime Minister Percival Patterson has paid tribute to the life and work of Oliver Tambo, chairman of South Africa's African National Congress (ANC), who died Saturday [24 April] at age 75 after suffering a stroke.

"For three decades this international fighter for human rights guided the struggle of the South African majority

against the abhorrent system of apartheid," said Patterson. He praised Tambo for initiating the ANC's "administrative machinery ... Which enabled him from 1960, while in exile, to succesfully direct the affairs of the congress from Lusaka and London, until his return to South Africa in 1990."

Patterson recalled that Tambo had visited Jamaica in the late 1980's and Jamaicans had been "honoured" to welcome him.

St. Lucia

Parliament Concludes Budget Debate 'Earlier Than Expected'

FL2704182893 Bridgetown CANA in English 1749 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Report by Peter Richards]

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, April 27, CANA—The St. Lucia Parliament Tuesday concluded debate on the government's 1993-94 budget earlier than expected, after opposition leader Julian Hunte refused to speak in the order he was scheduled. Hunte's refusal came despite several calls by parliamentary speaker Wilfred St. Clair Daniel for the St. Lucia Labour Party (SLP) leader to make his contribution to the debate. The tax-free EC542.7 million dollar (1 EC dollar = 37 U.S. cents) budget was presented last Friday [23 April] by prime minister and minister of finance, John Compton.

After Hunte refused to speak, Compton moved for a 15 minute adjournment of the House of Assembly to allow opposition parliamentarians to rethink the position of their leader.

"There is no particular position set aside for the leader of the opposition or for any government minister to speak in Parliament," speaker St. Clair Daniel said. Hunte was scheduled to speak before Peter Josie, the former deputy leader of the SLP who now sits as an independent MP [Member of Parliament] after being expelled from the party earlier this year. Reports suggested Hunte was not in favour of speaking before Josie who did not attend Parliament Tuesday after reporting he was not feeling well.

After the short adjournment, Compton again asked Parliament to ensure that Hunte be given "the opportunity to say if he will speak" on the budget. To this, Hunte replied that he was waiving "my right to speak until later in the debate." The speaker said the standing orders of the house did not permit such a request. He then called again on parliamentarians to make their contributions "before I call on the honourable prime minister to reply (and close the debate)."

Hunte again stated his intention to speak at a later stage, to which the speaker replied that the rules of the house should not be compared to those of a friendly society. Hunte reacted angrily calling on the speaker to "get off that high horse that you're on and deal with the business of this house fairly, because that is not what is happening in here." But St. Clair Daniel dismissed Hunte's remarks saying "I will not attempt to answer.... Because I don't think you are in a frame of mind to make a statement like that."

"I am in a perfect state of mind, thank God, and if you have any doubt, I will take a blood test just for you," Hunte replied.

Compton, in his windingup speech, compared the debate with the current cricket test between the West Indies and Pakistan, noting that the might of the West Indies had caused the opposition to shudder.

"We have a year ahead of us, which is exciting in its possibilities....," Compton said.

Compton told Parliament he had been given an assurance—he didn't say by whom - that attempts by Latin American countries to get the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the global trade regulatory body, to rule against new arrangements for the sale of Caribbean bananas in Europe would not succeed.

"Their attempt in GATT will fail and once it has failed, the German's case in the European Court will also fail," he said in reference to Germany's opposition to the new banana agreement which offers some protection to Caribbean producers against their larger Latin American competitors. Compton said the concern was now to get the "Americans to understand the importance of the banana industry to us." The banana industry is a major contributor to St. Lucia's economy.

Trinidad and Tobago

Ex-Prime Minister Urges Caricom International Criminal Court

FL2904011293 Bridgetown CANA in English 2016 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, April 28, CANA—Former Trinidad and Tobago prime minister, Arthur Robinson, has asked secretary-general of the Caribbean Community, Dr. Edwin Carrington, to bring the issue of an ad hoc international criminal tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the matter of a permanent international criminal court to the attention of heads of government and foreign ministers of Caricom.

In a letter dated April 22, Robinson reminded Dr. Carrington that progress at the United Nations toward an international criminal court had been propelled by Caricom's initiative in the period 1988-1990. Robinson stressed in his letter that Caricom, having played such a major role in promoting an international criminal jurisdiction for the protection of human rights and the advancement of humanitarian law, should not now appear to lose interest, while the proposal was attracting increased international interest and support.

Robinson made available to Dr. Carrington a report on recent discussions, which an international parliamentary delegation, led by Robinson, had with the secretary-general of the United Nations, Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, members of the UN Security Council, and officials of the Clinton Administration in Washington.

"Robinson is proposing that Caricom heads and foreign ministers instruct their foreign ministries and UN embassies on the matter, and that progress be reported at heads of government meetings," according to a statement released here on behalf of the former prime minister.

"Commonwealth secretary-general, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, is also to be contacted by Robinson who is seeking Commonwealth support for the effort at the UN." In an interview by telephone with CANA, Robinson stated: "I am very pleased with the favourable response the proposal for the court is now receiving from large and small countries alike. However, there should be no relaxation in the effort to establish the court."

Commerce Secretary, U.S. Trade Representative Converse on NAFTA

PA2804142993 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1317 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Jaime Jose Serra Puche, Mexican commerce and industrial development secretary, and U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor on 27 April held a telephone conversation to reiterate the determination of their governments to make the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA] a reality. They discussed the statements made by Leon Panetta, White House budget director, and agreed that Panetta's statements do not reflect the U.S. Government's decision.

President Clinton believes the complementary agreements are positive and the treaty is favorable and will create many jobs on both sides of the border, Serra and Cantor stated. They explained that they will keep in touch to continue supervising the progress of the supplementary agreement negotiations.

Meanwhile, U.S. Labor Secretary Robert Reich said that the trilateral treaty is a very important initiative for his country, adding that it is in no way dead.

Government To Apply Antidumping Measures on U.S. Steel Products

PA2804193993 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Report by Susana Castaneira]

[Text] Mexico will apply antidumping measures on various U.S. steel products. As of 29 April, Mexico will impose a tax on U.S. steel products, which represent unfair competition that would force dumping of Mexican products. This was announced by Mr. Pedro Noyola, foreign trade under secretary of the Commerce and Industrial Development Secretariat.

[Begin Noyola recording] Taxes ranging from 4 to 40 percent will be established on sheet steel. Taxes ranging from 18 to 38 percent will be imposed on hot processed sheet steel and from 2 to 13 percent on cold processed sheet steel. [end recording]

During the closing ceremony of the general meeting of the National Chamber of the Iron and Steel Industries, Mr. Noyola said that the trade secretariat will publish the final resolutions on the import of U.S. steel in the official gazette on 28 April.

[Begin Noyola recording] To the extent that [words indistinct] engage in dumping practices detrimental to national production, similar measures may be applied against other foreign exporters. [end recording]

Mr. Noyola said that Mexico is opposed to and rejects any kind of protectionist measure. He added, however, that Mexico recognizes the need to establish a control policy to prevent and counter unfair trade practices.

Four Individuals Occupy Belgian Embassy

PA2804221493 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2113 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Mexico City, 28 Apr (EFE)—Four individuals who are members of an association of prisoners' relatives have occupied the Belgian Embassy in Mexico on 28 April. The same people had previously tried to occupy the Spanish General Consulate in this capital.

The members of the Association of Relatives of Social Prisoners of Mexico State [Asociacion de Familiares de Presos Sociales del Estado de Mexico] have filed protests over the alleged ill treatment received by their jailed relatives in the prison of Toluca, which is the capital of Mexico State and 80 km from Mexico City.

A spokesman for the group who remained outside the embassy told EFE that although no one in the group is armed, the four persons who occupied the diplomatic mission have every intention to remain there until the Government Secretariat complies with an agreement it recently signed with their association.

Belgian diplomatic sources have reported that the four persons in the embassy remain there "as guests."

A few minutes earlier, the three men and one woman at the Belgian Embassy had tried to occupy the Spanish General Consulate in Mexico City. Diplomatic sources reported that the group agreed to leave the consulate when arrangements were made for them to meet with a National Human Rights Commission official.

The Belgian Embassy has been surrounded by policemen, federal agents, and patrol cars.

Costa Rica

'Death Commando Unit' Continues Siege on Supreme Court

Presidency Minister on Situation

PA2804161993 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Telephone interview with Presidency Minister Rolando Lacle in San Jose by unidentified reporter in Santa Fe de Bogota —live]

[Text] [Reporter] We greet Costa Rican Presidency Minister Dr. Rolando Lacle. Mr. Minister, what is the latest information regarding the holding of 24 people in the Supreme Court of Justice offices? A good morning to you.

[Lacle] Good morning. First of all, thank you for your interest in this case, which obviously has shaken the Costa Rican people. I can say that on 27 April important progress was made in this process. One of the Supreme Court magistrates, Jesus Ramirez, was released by the occupiers for health reasons. He apparently suffered an acute attack of appendicitis. I was able to talk with him, which has given us a clearer picture of the situation at the site. In addition, the leaders of the group of kidnappers have been fully identified. They are two former officials of the Supreme Court who have no international or foreign links. They have nothing to do with the drug cartels. They are acting basically for personal reasons. With this identification, it has been possible to take certain measures that naturally make the process easier for the Costa Rican Government. A new deadline, which expires at 1300 on 28 April has been set. The government is taking the pertinent measures. Obviously, we cannot comment on those measures, but I believe that, within the difficult situation that we are experiencing, I can say that progress has been made toward a clearer perspective of the situation.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, what about the identity of the other two individuals?

[Lacle] We do not know the identity of the other two individuals. Although the leaders of the group insist that they are Colombian citizens, the Costa Rican Government presumes that this is (?unlikely). Moreover, the individuals of Colombian nationality who are in Costa Rican jails on drug related charges have stated clearly that they have no links to this action and that they are not willing, under any circumstances, to be released from jail in association with this group that has taken the Supreme Court magistrates hostage.

[Reporter] Minister Lacle, it has been said that the other two who have not been identified, other than Guillermo and Gilberto Fallas, are Gerardo Espinoza and (Jaime Cerda), who are Colombians.

[Lacle] We have no proof of that. We have no proof. For the moment, anything that I say in that regard would be speculation. The only two who have been definitely and fully identified—because the government has made direct contact with them—are the two individuals named Fallas.

[Reporter] Do you think there will be a nonviolent solution?

[Lacle] Anything can happen.

[Reporter] Do you think there will be a solution today?

[Lacle] It is difficult to set a time. It is difficult to predict how long this will take, although the Costa Rican Government would clearly face this problem differently, as has been done on previous occasions, if there were political ramifications. We are apparently facing a case of a common crime, a case of alleged extortion involving the country's highest judicial authorities. It is a very different situation, for example, from that that we faced with the occupation of the Nicaraguan Embassy, when there were political overtones, and links to foreign governments that also had to participate in the process. This is within the exclusive purview of the Costa Rican Government, which has already made the appropriate decisions.

[Reporter] What can you tell us about the weapons held by the four occupiers?

[Lacle] We have identified the weapons. In fact, we even know where they got them and from whom. They are basically armed with AK-47s.

[Reporter] They do not have grenades or other kinds of explosives?

[Lacle] We are not in a position to state that as yet. We have contradictory reports on this.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, it is known that on 27 April you talked with several Latin American presidents, including President Cesar Gaviria.

[Lacle] President Calderon talked on 27 April with President Gaviria, who offered his government's fullest cooperation to the Costa Rican Government, which we deeply appreciate.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, what is the background of the two Costa Rican citizens who have already been identified?

[Lacle] One of them was the driver of one of the ambulances....[pauses] one of the cars used to take prisoners to court. He was an employee of the country's Judicial Investigation Agency [OIJ], and the other man was also a former OIJ official. In other words, they are people with police experience, people who had careers in the police force, and they know how to handle (?weapons). They are people who worked in the Judicial Branch itself.

[Reporter] Minister Lacle, what can you tell us about the state of health and morale of the other magistrates who are still being held hostage?

[Lacle] Some of them have health problems. We have been exerting all the pressure that we can to get them released, but of course, this has had results only in one case, a magistrate who is in the hospital. I talked with him at length, and this has made it clear to us that there are at least three magistrates in delicate health.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, when you say that anything could happen, you are not ruling out a police or military action?

[Lacle] Anything can happen.

[Reporter] Minister Lacle, what have those who have come out of the Supreme Court building had to say?

[Lacle] Only one has come out, right? Justice Ramirez.

[Reporter] Correct. What has that person said of the status of those who are still inside?

[Lacle] Three of them are seriously ill.

[Reporter] How were things in the evening? Have you been in contact in the past few hours?

[Lacle] The evening was calm. Talks with those individuals ended late in the evening, at almost 0100, and from then until now, 0800, nothing spectacular has happened.

[Reporter] What are the latest demands from the four kidnappers?

[Lacle] They have reduced their ransom request from $20 million to $8 million, and they are asking for a South American country to receive them as political refugees, which indicates their lack of knowledge of this area, because no country is going to receive common criminals as political refugees.

[Reporter] Have provisions and services to the site been continued?

[Lacle] Partially.

[Reporter] In other words, have new provisions been delivered, and have the power, water, and telephone services been continued?

[Lacle] Power and water, yes; telephone service, no. It is restricted solely to communications with the government, and no food was provided last night.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, thank you very much. Again we wish you a successful outcome. We observe you to be very serene and calm. We imagine that the government has the situation entirely under control.

[Lacle] We wish this were so. We are facing a very delicate, very difficult situation, but those of us who are responsible for such public functions—which are not at all pleasant—are obliged to remain calm and we are working in this regard. Thank you for describing me as serene and calm. Indeed, we clearly know what we have to do. We are clearly aware of our responsibility to the country. We are complying with that responsibility, but we are praying hard for God to help us so that the outcome of this matter can be as happy as possible.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, 24 hours later, does the situation seem less serious than at the beginning?

[Lacle] Yes, from the viewpoint of the fact that there seem to be no foreign ramifications, but this does not change the serious fact that we are dealing with people with military capability, people who are familiar with weapons and explosives, and that the situation involves serious personal conflicts.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, there is a report that one of the kidnappers has cirrhosis of the liver and needs a liver transplant and is reportedly seeking money for that operation, according to his relatives. How much truth is there to that report?

[Lacle] It is true that one of them has cirrhosis of the liver and needs a transplant, but some transplants have been done in this country without recourse to such procedures to obtain the funds. However, it is true that one of them has terminal cancer.

[Reporter] Which of the two, Guillermo or Gilberto?

[Lacle] Guillermo.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, what are you referring to when you say the two are involved in very serious personal conflicts?

[Lacle] Well, there are apparently economic and family problems, matters of a family break up and things of that kind.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, has the original demand that your government release a list of prisoners been withdrawn?

[Lacle] Yes, they gave up on that from the time Carlos Urquijo took the lead in stating publicly that he would not leave the jail with them under any circumstances. During the afternoon of 27 April, all Colombian nationals being held in the country's jails sent a note to the interim Supreme Court and to the government, namely to the ministers who are in charge of this crisis, reiterating definitely that they will not leave jail in the company of this group. It seems to me that the kidnappers have shelved this matter.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, is there any guess as to the identity of the other two kidnappers?

[Lacle] No. [repeats] No. There is a great deal of speculation that they could be either Costa Ricans or Colombians.

[Reporter] Costa Rican Presidency Minister Dr. Rolando Lacle, we thank you very much for this contact

with Caracol. We are certain that it will not be the last such contact. We continue to await the outcome of this very complicated situation that your country is experiencing as a result of the kidnapping of the Supreme Court justices.

[Lacle] Thanks you. I am very grateful for your interest in this regrettable matter.

Security Minister on Colombian Advisers

PA2804172193 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1609 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Interview with Luis Fishman, government and public security minister, by an unidentified reporter at the Government and Public Security Ministry in San Jose—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Have the kidnappers given a new deadline for meeting their demands? Have you talked to them?

[Fishman] We have kept in touch with the kidnappers. We maintain conversations with them. I just had a meeting with a group of magistrates and we will continue to work on this matter.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] a report on the evening of 27 April that these gentlemen were the group leaders? Did you get a reaction from them? Has anything changed since?

[Fishman] No, no. The situation remains the same as it was in the beginning. I had a long talk with them to try to persuade them to free the hostages. For now they maintain their position demanding a ransom payment.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] what will happen at 1300 when the deadline expires [words indistinct]?

[Fishman] This is what we are considering. At this time there are different working groups in different areas and we will all meet in the next hour.

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Fishman] The Colombian advisers arrived in the country in the early morning hours of 28 April.

[Reporter] Why did the Colombian advisers arrive if the government had ruled out any connection between the kidnappers and drug trafficking groups?

[Fishman] They are experts in dealing with similar situations. They had a similar experience in Colombia when the National Congress was taken over. In addition, the Colombian president offered to assist us by providing experts in dealing with crisis situations similar to the one they experienced a few years ago. We are very thankful to the Colombian Embassy and Government for this gesture.

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Fishman] I talked to [Supreme Court President] Edgar Cervantes on the morning of 28 April. They are all fine. But they are concerned as we are.

[Reporter] Have the other kidnappers been identified?

[Fishman] There has been a great deal of speculation about that. It would be best not to speculate about the identities of the kidnappers or even their nationalities.

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Fishman] We have told them that it is very difficult for a government to meet these kinds of demands. We gave them examples of similar past situations, in which the government had nothing to do with the payment of ransom. The country's institutions are in serious danger if we yield to these demands. We are facing a very serious problem.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, will today be a key day [words indistinct]?

[Fishman] Yes, today may be a key day to solving this problem.

Government Not To Pay Ransom

PA2804183293 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1802 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] San Jose—With less than an hour before the end of the deadline given by the Supreme Court of Justice occupiers, the Costa Rican Government announced it will not pay the $8 million demanded as ransom for the 18 [number as heard] justices and five officials. The government is trying to persuade the occupiers to end the occupation without violence. At the same time, however, the government accepted the assistance of five counterterrorism Colombian experts, who are just now meeting with the Crisis Committee. The government has not ruled out the possibility of using force. Government Minister Luis Fishman has said a decision has not been made on such a measure.

A group of doctors will try to go into the building in a few minutes to look after the justices suffering from heart ailments.

Two Justices Released

PA2804190793 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1828 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Report by Cecilia Zuniga from the Public Security Ministry in San Jose—live]

[Text] Supreme Court Justice Eduardo Sancho Gonzalez has just entered the Public Security Ministry building. We were unable to obtain any statement because he was taken very swiftly into the Public Security Ministry building. This confirms the release of a second magistrate of the 19 who are being held in the Supreme Court building. We do not know the conditions or motives for his release, but it has taken place. This brings to two the

number of justices who have been released of the 19 who have been held hostage since 26 April. Four people, three of them Costa Ricans, caught the magistrates by surprise as they were holding their usual weekly meeting.

We repeat: Justice Eduardo Sancho was released and has been unexpectedly and swiftly transferred to the Public Security Ministry building. We barely saw him, and we were unable to get any detailed information about this. We will be providing more information as events develop.

[San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish at 1836 GMT on 28 April adds: "Two justices were released: Sancho Gonzalez and another justice believed to be Alfonso Chavez Ramirez."]

Released Justices To Mediate

PA2804202293 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1901 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Report by Cecilia Zuniga from the Public Security Ministry in San Jose--live]

[Text] Activity has increased at the Public Security Ministry as a result of the release of two of the justices who were among those kidnapped at the Supreme Court of Justice. They are Eduardo Sancho and Alfonso Chavez, who between 1700 and 1730 GMT on 28 April were released. We are unaware why they have been released, but unofficial reports indicate that they may act as mediators. They were authorized to come to the Public Security Ministry and pursue negotiations with the Crisis Commission.

The release of Sancho and Chavez raises to three the number of justices released. Both men looked exhausted. [passage indistinct] Sanchez has a long beard and he looks very tired after being held for three days as a hostage at the Supreme Court of Justice by four individuals, three of whom have identified themselves as Costa Ricans. Two of them are brothers Guillermo and Gilberto Fallas Elizondo.

At this very moment, the Crisis Committee has concluded the [passage indistinct] session and Public Security Minister Luis Fishman has made some very brief statements. He said the committee cannot disclose to the media the manner in which the situation is unfolding and the measures that will be adopted because it would be a warning to the kidnappers.

[Begin recording] [Fishman] We are going to converse with the justices about the situation at the Supreme Court. At this time we have suspended discussions so their relatives can talk with them [words indistinct].

[Unidentified Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Fishman] (?The mediation session will last three hours). [words indistinct] the people who are in charge of security and they have offered to talk with the Crisis Committee, but they have also pledged to return.

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Fishman] I must ask you to understand that I want to inform you of what is happening, but we do not want to jeopardize the negotiation process.

[Reporter] What about their ultimatum?

[Fishman] The ultimatum has been eliminated. There is no deadline hour. There is nothing new at this time. I would beg you [words indistinct] [end recording]

As I said earlier, Fishman made very brief statements. He said the two justices have three hours to negotiate with the Crisis Committee. The relatives of Sancho and Chavez took advantage of this opportunity to visit with them. Among the visitors are one of the two men's children, Chavez' wife, and Sancho's father and sister-in-law. Both men have sadness in their eyes but have expressed satisfaction at being released and being able to meet with their relatives, even for a few minutes, because after three hours they must return to the Supreme Court of Justice to mediate.

Relatives Offer To Pay; Government Opposes

PA2904021693 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0109 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Telephone report by William Cespedes from the Presidency in San Jose—live]

[Text] Great secrecy prevailed on 28 April regarding developments in the serious problem the nation has been facing since 26 April, particularly because some members of the judicial branch and relatives of the magistrates who remain hostages of the Death Commando group want to pay ransom. The Government of the Republic opposes such an action because it would open possibilities for the repetition of such events in our country.

Eduardo Sanchez and Alfonso Chavez, the two magistrates who were temporarily released before noon on 28 April, have been in charge of taking the proposals to the Crisis Committee from both the kidnappers as well as from a group within the judicial branch that wants to pay some ransom, although not the $8 million, to obtain the magistrates' release.

The Government Council, which has been meeting since noon on 28 April with the president of the Republic at the Presidential Palace, has been analyzing the situation for the last two hours with the ministers who form the Crisis Committee.

According to reports, President Calderon is strongly opposed to paying any ransom, even if it is paid by the magistrates' relatives. Paying ransom would weaken the government's stand and the country's institutions, and what is even more dangerous, it would open the possibility for a repetition of this type of crime. Actually, it would guarantee that any kidnapper could obtain money.

Nonetheless, efforts have been made at the diplomatic level to allow the departure of the four members of the terrorist commando group that took the magistrates hostage on 26 April in the Supreme Court building. It has been learned that these efforts have been made with the Brazilian and Argentine Governments. No official reply has been received yet from those countries. It was unofficially learned, however, that Brazil is reportedly not willing to receive the kidnappers.

The Government Council continues to analyze the situation and evaluate the evolution of the case over the last hours in an effort to find a definitive solution to the conflict. This situation is considered one of the most serious of Calderon's administration, which is about to mark its third anniversary.

President Calderon Fournier and his ministers have been meeting since noon on 28 April after the initial contacts were made and the strategic mechanism was implemented when the two magistrates were temporarily released to serve as liaisons between the kidnappers and the Crisis Committee.

Calderon Comments on Situation

PA2904042893 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0316 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Telephone report by William Cespedes from the Presidential Palace in San Jose—live]

[Text] President Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier has just commented on the kidnapping of the Supreme Court justices that began on Monday, 26 April. The negotiations are continuing, he said, adding the outlook is positive. He stated the government will not pay ransom, but the relatives of the justices are ready to pay the sum that the captors are demanding. The president hopes that the situation will be resolved in a few hours. Negotiations continue with the captors. He added, however, that they will cease negotiations tonight and resume contact during the course of the day tomorrow. Here are Calderon's remarks.

[Begin recording] [Calderon] We are facing a very delicate situation that is being handled very professionally. We have tried to find a solution among Costa Ricans. I can say that things are going well. I trust and hope that we will soon find a solution to this serious problem, which is facing all Costa Ricans. As I have told you, the most important thing in the work that any of us may do is to guarantee the lives of the justices—the hostages—and guarantee respect for the institutions of the country. These are two fundamental things that we have been handling and defending. For that reason, if we talk too much, we may seriously endanger the lives of the hostages. I would like to ask the Costa Rican people today, 28 April, to pray together and ask God to quickly bring an end to this terrible episode that we Costa Ricans are experiencing. Let us always have faith in God. That is faith we can never lose. Let us always have faith that his will will be done and that we are going to be able to respect his will. We hope that in this case his will is that we will emerge victorious from every standpoint, respecting lives and protecting our institutions.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Calderon] There are two different policies. One is the government policy, which cannot be changed. The government, under no circumstances, will pay one red cent. During my time in office, not a single cent has ever been paid. This is something that relatives can do, however, since the government does not intervene in the private lives of citizens. [end recording]

President Calderon said Justices Eduardo Sancho and Alfonso Chavez, who are members of a new channel of negotiations, have done an excellent job. He added that there is hope that this incident will be resolved without bloodshed in a few hours. This would mean the negotiations would resume early tomorrow morning, Thursday, 29 April, between the Crisis Committee and the kidnappers so that this serious problem, which has caused so much tension throughout the country, can conclude tomorrow.

El Salvador

FMLN Leaders on Political Agreements, Coalitions

PA2804165493 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Jorge Shafik Handal, general coordinator of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], has said that a pact between all political groups to govern the country must be found, independent of any electoral alliance that may arise for the March 1994 election. The leader said the pact must come now, with the participation of all national political groups; otherwise, the efforts that have been made will have been in vain. The right wing, he said, must also do its part.

[Begin Handal recording] This governing pact must arise from a national discussion, which we must begin now. We must work on this pact as of now. It will be to our benefit if we express our programs, positions, and intentions, and work out a pact based on that. We must not only include in the pact parties such as the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] but also the new right-wing business sector. These are sectors that are open to dialogue. [end recording]

The former guerrilla leader said the FMLN is studying the possibility of joining up with other left-wing political forces in the upcoming elections but for the first round only. He added that if an alliance is needed for the second round, they will have to consider it then. Handal, however, regretted that the Democratic Convergence had expressed its support for Ruben Zamora on 24 April, stating that there can be no talk of candidates yet, because there is a consultation process going on among the grass-roots membership.

[Begin Handal recording] This is not the time to mention candidates. I totally disagree on this point. This is a time to forge our strategy and organization. Incidentally, the FMLN has demonstrated great vitality in this area. On 25 April we were carrying out 45 municipal conventions simultaneously, and when this process ends in the first weeks of May, we will have held 246 municipal conventions. [end recording]

At almost 11 months away from the coming elections, some parties have already announced the names of their candidates. The PDC will make its announcement on 23 May during the primary elections. The National Revolutionary Movement will do so during the first half of May and the National Conciliation Party will make its announcement on 27 April.

Jorge Melendez, another FMLN leader, said on 26 April that before deciding on who will run for president, the party has gone out to find the political platform they will present to the people.

[Begin Melendez recording] This will allow us to form a broad coalition that will make the country governable. First we must form a strictly left-wing coalition in the first round to assess our strength and in the second round we can seek an even broader based pact. Now, we could go into the first round with a broader base to defeat the Nationalist Republican Alliance [Arena]. [end recording]

This is the debate that is keeping the FMLN from presenting its presidential ticket for 1994. According to Jorge Melendez, one political alternative to defeat Arena is to hold discussions with the other possible opposition candidates and collect their various points of view and then seek coalitions. He added, however, that the party is creating municipal and departmental directorates in an effort to unload on the general membership a larger part of the responsibility of selecting those who will represent them in the election.

[Begin Melendez recording] The discussions and debates among the party rank and file will be essential. We have set up a decisionmaking process that begins, as I have said, by promoting discussions and then carrying out a consultative process through the departmental conventions. [end recording]

For the time being the FMLN is holding conventions to select its municipal directorates, and is expected to hold all its departmental conventions on 23 May. On 27 June, the party will conclude the process with the national convention, when the FMLN will announce what it believes will be the winning ticket for the 1994 presidential election.

Nicaragua

Radio Ya Director Says FSLN Ordered FPI Attack

PA2804162493 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Carlos Jose Guadamuz, director of Radio Ya, has charged that a member of the National Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] ordered the Leftist Punitive Forces [FPI] to carry out the 24 April attack on the radio station he directs, which is owned by Daniel Ortega.

The FPI is the organization that in November 1992 killed Arges Sequeira, the leader of people who had property confiscated. Let's listen to Guadamuz accusing a member of the FSLN National Directorate:

[Begin Guadamuz recording] I want to make it clear that I am not accusing the entire FSLN National Directorate. Only one member issued the threat, and he went through with it using the FPI. He threatened to destroy the radio station and to kill me.

The Sandinist Front cannot become a gang. The Sandinist Front cannot act like they live in Chicago during its gangster period, when hired killers killed anyone who disobeyed a mafia boss. This is not what we want. We are talking about facing elections in 1996, elections I think we can win, but we are engaging in dirty tricks of this nature. This was a dirty trick that tarnishes the FSLN image. How are we going to face the 1996 elections if we are committing these types of atrocities? How are we going to tell Antonio Lacayo to be serious when we are not being serious, when we are being irresponsible? The Sandinist Front cannot become a Chicago-style group of gangsters. We must be a serious and respectable organization, one in which the people may believe. The people want no more violence. The people do not want to return to violence. That violence was produced by the United States, but all the people endured it. We do not want to return to confrontations. We reject armed violence from the contras and the recontras and from the compas and the recompas. We want no more violence.

But it happens now that we have been included on a list. I wonder how many more people have been placed on a list. This is what happened in Chicago. We are adopting the Pablo Escobar system in Colombia, placing bombs, like a mafia boss, like Pablo Escobar.

The Sandinist Front cannot become an organization of mafia people. It cannot order someone killed because he does not obey. How far are we going to go? We are killing the Sandinist Front, not Guadamuz. This is who we are killing with this kind of position, because the people will reject us if we continue doing this. Everybody knows who attacked the radio station and if I am killed the people will know who gave that order. I have the name of the person who gave that order. That person is a member of the National Directorate. I received a direct death

threat. Are we going to turn the FSLN into a gang like those of Pablo Escobar or Al Capone? If the Sandinist Front wants to survive, it must be serious and responsible. I am not saying that the Front or the Directorate are not. Some individuals are doing this. [end recording]

D. Ortega Rejects Links to Armed Groups

PA2704151493 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 26 Apr 93 pp 1, 12

[Text] Daniel Ortega, secretary general of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], categorically declared on 25 April that the political party he leads "rejects all reports linking it to armed groups" in reference to charges by Radio Ya Director Carlos Guadamuz. Guadamuz has charged that a top Sandinist leader ordered the Leftist Punitive Forces [FPI] to carry out the attack on that radio station.

Ortega continued: "On the contrary, the FSLN's policy is to contribute to the demobilization and disarmament of armed groups that have emerged in various parts of the country."

On behalf of his party, Ortega condemned the attack that took Radio Ya off the air. He said: "The Sandinist Front urges these armed groups to cease their actions."

Deputy Government Minister Frank Cesar has announced that for investigative purposes, Government Ministry authorities will ask Guadamuz to provide details on the threats he has received and on the people who made those threats.

Cesar said the police are not discounting any possibility in this case. He explained that Guadamuz will be summoned by the authorities to make a statement.

Cesar added that on 25 April the Police Department was ordered to protect the transmitting stations of Radios Corporacion, Catolica, La Primerisima, Sandino, and Nicaragua.

Cesar added that, according to the Government Ministry, the attackers were dressed in olive green, not Police uniforms as was reported on 25 April. He said the ministry will await the experts' investigations before issuing an official report.

The action, which, according to Guadamuz, was prompted by the station's airing of propaganda from Managua Mayoralty, generated a wave of protests in various sectors of the country. Some of the people we interviewed, however, disagreed with the tone and content of the statements by the Radio Ya director linking an FSLN National Directorate member to the terrorist action.

In this regard, Ortega said he shares the concerns voiced at meetings of the Sandinist Assembly regarding Aleman's propaganda, because "that man is the true image of Somocism."

"Aleman has said that Managua is changing, but that has meant the profanation of tombs of heroes and martyrs, the destruction of tombs, and attempts to change names of public places to the extent of trying to rename the Christian Perez neighborhood with the name of Somoza's mother," Ortega added.

Ortega made it clear, however, that he thinks it is completely normal for Sandinist media to air propaganda of other state institutions.

Channel 4 Director Dionisio Marenco condemned the attack on the station, but added that a radio station that defends the people's interests should not carry propaganda from the Managua mayor, "who is a representative of Somozism in Nicaragua."

He also rejected Guadamuz' charge that a National Directorate member is responsible for the attack.

Sandinist Deputy Herty Lewites repudiated this attack and all attacks "against the media, regardless of the source." He added that Guadamuz should "show a high degree of maturity in his statements."

Manuel Beteta, member of the Sandinist Departmental Assembly of Managua, said the Radio Ya director "has neither moral authority nor evidence to link a National Directorate member to the FPI." He added that publishing Guadamuz' statements is tantamount to "falling for his game."

Journalist Silvio Mora described the action against Radio Ya as "cavernous [cavernario] terrorism." Extravision newscast reporter Jorge Catin described Guadamuz' statements as "hasty." He agreed that the attack is "reprehensible from any viewpoint."

"If he has specific proof against anyone involved, he should present it to the Police and the Sandinist Assembly," Catin added.

EPS Says Arrangement With Washington on Gen. Ortega Retirement 'False'

PA2804185193 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 27 Apr 93 pp 1,12

[Text] On 26 April, the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] described as false recent information related to an alleged arrangement with Washington leading to the retirement of General Humberto Ortega in 1995, one year before the next presidential elections.

The information, which was published in the U.S. daily THE NEW HERALD and reproduced by a local newspaper, stated that Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo had promised Clinton administration officials in February that he would reschedule Ortega's retirement for an earlier date in exchange for the withheld $50 million in financial assistance.

The communique made public by the EPS Directorate of Public and Foreign Relations states: "It is completely

false that the EPS has accepted an arrangement with Washington to decide issues that pertain solely to our Constitution and the Nicaraguan people."

"Within the framework of the political Constitution and in accordance to the principles of sovereignty, independence, and national dignity, the EPS will continue its process of perfecting and regulating the military career," the communique highlights. It continues that the lengths of the careers of principal EPS officers, including the commander in chief, are determined by the institution's Organic law.

Correction to Humberto Ortega on Roles of Army, Police

PA2804155393

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Humberto Ortega on Roles of Army, Police" published in the 27 April Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 21:

Column two, third complete paragraph, second sentence make read: ....my retirement is contemplated [words indistinct] there.... (deleting "not")

Panama

Indians Kidnap Panama Governor, Chepo Mayor

PA2804215293 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 2110 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] We interrupt this program to bring you a special report on the conflict between the Indians and the land settlers in the Alto Bayano area.

The Alto Bayano Indians have kidnapped Panama Province Governor Plutarco Arrocha and Chepo Mayor Ernesto Carrera, according to reports from that area.

The Indians from the Embera and Maguegandi areas took the action in view of the lack of interest authorities have shown in defining the future of the Indian area. That attitude has generated serious problems with the land settlers. The Indians are asking that a parliamentary commission go to the scene of the events.

[Begin recording] [unidentified Indian leader] We want them to come here and sign the documents right here, not in Panama City but right here. The governor will stay here.

[Arrocha] No, I am going home.

[Indian leader] No, you are not. No sir. [video shows Indians taking Arrocha away]

[Unidentified man] This is a lack of respect. [end recording]

You are watching the incidents that occurred in the Indian Alto Bayano area. This is when the Indians kidnapped Governor Plutarco Arrocha and the Chepo mayor, whom they are holding hostage at this time. The National Police authorities have arrived at the scene, and the possibility that the situation will worsen in the next few hours has not been ruled out.

Kidnappees Released

PA2904011193 Panama City Radio Mia Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Report by Clever David Gonzalez]

[Text] Radio Mia listeners, we are here at the Legislative Assembly building where Legislator Roberto Garibaldo, who is the Legislative Assembly vice president, has just announced that Panama Province Governor Plutarco Arrocha and Chepo Mayor Ernesto Callejas have just been released. Here is what Legislator Garibaldo had to say:

[Begin Garibaldo recording] I received a call from Government Minister Juan Chevalier. He told us that Panama Province Governor Plutarco Arrocha, who was being held by the Kuna Indians in the Bayano Lake area, has just been released. We offered to send a special assembly commission to hold a dialogue with them and talk about the bill for the creation of the Indian reservation [comarca]. [end recording]

That was Assembly Vice President Roberto Garibaldo speaking. He told us that Panama Province Governor Plutarco Arrocha and Chepo Mayor Ernesto Callejas were released. They had been kidnapped by Indian groups in the Alto Bayano area.

Roberto Aleman Confirmed as Liberal Party President

PA2604141393 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] On 25 April, Roberto Aleman Zubieta was ratified as president of the Liberal Party. A group led by Luis Estribi, however, decided to submit a document at the Electoral Tribunal challenging the decision adopted at the convention. Aleman said Liberal Party members agree on the need for unity to participate in the 1994 elections, even though each political group has stated it will participate with its own candidate.

Article Regulating Public Force Declared Unconstitutional

PA2604202893 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Apr 93 p 2A

[Report by Hermes Sucre Serrano]

[Text] A Supreme Court of Justice plenum has declared unconstitutional an article in Law 20 that regulates the Public Force [FP] because the court believes the article establishes a privilege favoring certain members of the military corps.

Former Solicitor General Aura Feraud has asked the Supreme Court of Justice to declare Paragraph 2 of

Article 71 in Law No. 20 unconstitutional because it violates Articles 19 and 295 of the national Constitution.

The contested article reads: "If an FP member is accused of a crime against the physical safety, property, or freedom of a person that the FP member apprehends in the act of executing or planning a crime against the physical safety of a third individual or against public security or public health, trafficking in drugs, or attempting to forcibly or violently enter a building or a vehicle owned by a third person, the FP member will be dismissed with the right to appeal to the executive, as long as the act committed by the FP member is directly related to the action of the person caught committing a crime."

Aura Feraud believes the regulation constitutes a privilege because the law states that FP members who perpetrate these crimes can only be discharged after they have exercised their right to executive appeal. "Meanwhile, FP members charged with a misdemeanor or crime in the line of duty must be discharged after an administrative or judicial authority orders their detention and subsequent suspension from service. The same will occur with other public employees who are suspended from their post according to Article 2470 of the Judicial Code," she added.

The Attorney General believes the aforementioned regulation violates Article 295 of the National Constitution because it grants a privilege to certain FP members, even though it contradicts the administrative morality that should prevail in public service according to Article 295 of the national Constitution.

Commerce Minister Announces New Hydrocarbon Storage Centers

PA2604181793 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 26 Apr 93 p 2A

[Report by Juan M. Diaz]

[Text] Roberto Alfaro, commerce and industries minister, has announced that two hydrocarbons storage centers with an estimated cost of 100 million balboas will be installed in Panama, thus making the country a trans-shipment point for petroleum.

Alfaro said that one of the hydrocarbons storage centers will be opened in Balboa Port under the name of ASA S.A., while the other will be at Cristobal Port at the Gatun tank farm. The latter was recently awarded in a public bid to the Atlantic Pacific Corporation.

According to the commerce and industries minister, the installation of these two hydrocarbons storage centers is part of the project to install free zones in the country to market fuel.

Alfaro said this could be the first stage in transforming the country into a petroleum distributing center at the Latin American level, which would allow Panama to obtain better prices for crude oil by-products.

Alfaro said Panama is in an ideal geographical position and has the necessary infrastructure to initiate the installation of the storage centers along the Atlantic Coast.

The government liberalized the hydrocarbons market as part of the Plan for the Modernization of the National Economy in September 1992.

Prices for petroleum by-products are currently governed by international market trends, although the government threatened to regulate prices again due to speculation by some concession holders and gas stations.

Government Minister on 1994 Elections Strategy

PA2804152793 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 Apr 93 p 2a

[Report by Vilma E. Figueroa B.]

[Text] Government and Justice Minister Juan B. Chevalier stated that the current government alliance will continue until 1994. He also explained that even though the Arnulfist Party [PA] purports put forth the presidential candidate, it has plans to hold talks with the new political parties.

The Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement and the Authentic Liberal Party are also part of the alliance and have expressed their intent to participate in the 1994 election with their own candidates. President Guillermo Endara announced this past weekend that PA President Mireya Moscoso Gruber will be the party's presidential candidate.

Chevalier, a member of the PA national board of directors, said that as Arnulfists they are expecting to head the political alliance during the forthcoming elections because, in his opinion, the PA constitutes the largest political party.

"In less than two days the PA was able to register more than 116,000 followers," Chevalier pointed out.

He said that there had been talks about divisions within the party, but during the convention in Boquete it was demonstrated that the party is "strong, united, and ready for 1994."

The minister highlighted the participation of approximately 45,000 party members during the convention, which he described as a "political success" that some tried to ruin with the 23 April attempt that resulted in the death of police terrorist Gabriel Guerra as he was about to throw a bomb at the convention site one day before the convention.

Chevalier said that the government alliance will continue and that new political parties will join. He also stated that preliminary conversations had been held with new groups that he declined to identify.

He added that even though these new political groups do not have many registered members, they do have valuable members who can help any alliance that reaches power to form a good government.

In the opinion of the PA official, this country needs its political parties to gather and, when they take office, to do it with a coherent plan that will allow them to do an efficient job.

Movement for Justice To Request Amnesty Bill Withdrawal

PA2804154493 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 27 Apr 93 p 3a

[Text] According to a communique, the National Movement for Justice in Panama, in view of the country's situation, will ask lawmaker Alberto Aleman Boyd to withdraw immediately a general amnesty proposal currently being debated at the Legislative Assembly in favor of a different one, which would be the result of comprehensive talks among all involved sectors.

The National Movement for Justice in Panama is deeply concerned over the several cautionary measures taken in recent legal proceedings. The community is under the impression that such measures could represent amnesty in disguise.

According to the note, it is suspected that the cautionary measures taken in recent months enabled their beneficiaries to escape the action of justice.

The National Movement for Justice in Panama has extended an invitation to participate both in a demonstration to be held in front of the Supreme Court of Justice from 1230 to 1330 on 28 April and a watch in front of the Attorney General's Office, beginning at 1600, on 5 May. The two events are intended to exert pressure for the expeditious and effective administration of justice.

Drug-Trafficking Routes in Bocas del Toro Province Detected

PA2304165893 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 22 Apr 93 p 2-A

[Report by Ibeth Vega G. and Vilma E. Figueroa B.]

[Text] Several drug-trafficking routes in Guabito and a drug-processing laboratory in El Teribe, Bocas del Toro Province have been detected, according to police sources.

This information was confirmed by Legislator Camilo Brenes, a member of the National Assembly's Drug Commission, who pointed out that members of the Police Investigation and Information Department in Bocas del Toro patrolled the area by air and detected several drug-trafficking routes in Guabito along the coasts of San San river beyond the Costa Rican border.

Brenes pointed out that there is considerable drug movement between Almirante and Costa Rica by way of the San San, Teribe and Sixaola rivers. He said these routes are already being investigated and observed through surveillance operations by the National Air Service, not only due to the drug-trafficking routes but because military training camps have been detected.

The legislator added that the commission has also received reports on the possible existence of a drug-processing laboratory in El Teribe. These reports are being investigated because large quantities of ethyl ether—used to process cocaine—are passing through that region.

"We would not be surprised if U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency agents were already in the region since this sort of cargo and movements may mean that drugs are being processed," Brenes said.

Regarding the operations under way in Chiriqui and Bocas del Toro Provinces, Brenes pointed out that the Assembly's Drug Commission approved travel to those provinces during the first week of May to investigate drug-related crimes.

A police source stated that some Bocas del Toro residents, especially merchants, have protested, not over the operations but over the alleged violation of laws that govern such operations.

The source stressed that the Chiriqui Land Company is considering filing a lawsuit against the state for damages resulting from a search of the Norwegian boat Tramarco Traders by policemen and employees from the Attorney General's Office, who had no legal authorization. Tramarco Traders supplies Chiriqui Land Company with the boxes in which its bananas are packed.

Chiriqui Prosecutor Emilio De Leon called for a trial against Earl Sinclair, chief of customs' Technical Investigations Directorate, for alleged drug-related crimes. Superior Court Secretary Madelin Miranda announced that trial judge Salvador Dominguez will have 15 days to resolve the case.

Regarding customs employees' involvement in alleged drug-related crimes, Finance Minister Mario Galindo said he will wait until the investigation has ended before adopting appropriate measures. He also stated that he fully supports the actions of Prosecutors Emilio de Leon and Luis Nestor Esquivel of Bocas del Toro, adding that he does not believe that anyone is being persecuted.

Vice President Guillermo Ford stated that one cannot go about accusing people, let alone political parties, of involvement in drug trafficking. Ford said that anyone found guilty should stand trial, but we cannot condemn people without giving them an opportunity to defend themselves.

Poll Reveals 'High Level' of Distrust Toward Police

PA2804210293 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 Apr 93 p 2

[Report by Hermes Sucre Serrano]

[Text] A recent public opinion poll carried out among 1,201 adults by the Dichter and Neira consulting firm reveals that a high level of distrust toward the National Police and the Technical Judicial Police [PTJ] still persists. In addition, most of the people polled believe the government has no control over the military.

With respect to the existence of popular distrust toward the National Police, 31.5 percent of those polled responded positively, while 57.2 percent disagreed, and 11.2 percent abstained.

The highest percentage of persons who expressed their distrust for the National Police was polled in Panama City. During March 1991, the distrust level was 20.1 percent. In April 1992 it was 26.6 percent, and this year the level rose to 31.5 percent.

With respect to whether the population trusts the PTJ or not, its approval level was 24 percent, while a great majority responded negatively. In March 1991, confidence in the PTJ was 16.1 percent, in April 1992 it was 23.8 percent, and in 1993 confidence stands at 24.0 percent.

On whether or not the government has control over the military, the agreement level was 32.1 percent, while 49 percent disagreed, and 18 percent did not respond.

In April 1991, 38.5 percent of those polled considered that civilian authority had control over the military, while in April 1992 acceptance levels had risen to 42.2 percent. In 1993, the agreement level had fallen to 32.1 percent.

Dichter and Neira's research is based on 1,201 individual interviews of adult Panamanians throughout the Republic.

Sample distribution according to cities was 385 in Panama, 118 in Colon, 179 in David, 40 in Las Tablas, 37 in Chitre, 108 in Santiago, 80 in Penonome, 75 in La Chorrera, and 179 in San Miguelito.

Sample equilibrium was obtained through the statistical technique of stratified random sampling. Sample stratification of those persons surveyed was carried out according to sex, age, educational background, and employment status. All statistical results carry a 3 percent margin of error.

The sample distribution according to educational level was of 129 persons with elementary school education; 240 with incomplete high school education; 476 had completed high school; 237 had incomplete university education; 119 had completed university and postgraduate studies. With respect to the employment situation of those surveyed, 826 are currently employed, and 375 are unemployed. The population polled includes 602 men and 599 women.

The poll concentrated on six large research topics such as the performance of political figures, economic situation, political issues, loss of political prestige, and elections.

Poll Shows People Do Not Want Cruz' Reinstatement

PA2604212993 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Apr 93 p 1a

[Report by Nubia Aparicio]

[Text] A recent Dichter and Neira poll of 1,201 people over the age of 18 indicates that a significant portion of the population feels that Rogelio Cruz, who was temporarily suspended from his post as attorney general charged with serious crimes, should not return.

The poll, which was conducted among both sexes and from a representative sample of the population throughout the country, shows that 74 percent of respondents do not want Cruz to return to the Attorney General's Office; 15 percent say that they favor his return; and 10 percent were apathetic and preferred not to express an opinion.

Both women and men (74 and 73 percent, respectively) oppose Cruz' return to his post. The same was true among the people in the city (73 percent) and people in the countryside (74 percent).

The poll was carried out for LA PRENSA and has a 3-percent margin of error.

Attorney General Rogelio Cruz was removed from his post on 24 December and placed under house arrest by order of Solicitor General Donatilo Ballesteros after nearly two months of investigations into the release of bank accounts holding millions [currency not specified] that allegedly belonged to drug traffickers.

Ballesteros began a series of investigations following charges by attorney Alvin Weeden; Eusebio Marchosky, president of the Directorate for the Recovery of State Property in the Comptroller's General's Office; and legislator Leo Gonzalez of the Molirena [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement] party, who accused Cruz of illegally releasing bank accounts belonging to drug traffickers. The solicitor general maintained that Cruz ordered the release of $38 million allegedly linked to drug trafficking even though "the law does not authorize him to do so."

Ballesteros' 24 December judgment ordering Cruz's removal from his post and his house arrest reflect the solicitor general's stance.

"It is obvious that third parties have benefited from checks that supposedly cover professional services for

releasing bank accounts without having reported the income on their respective tax returns, their names serving to deflect information on the destination of the payments," the judgment states.

According to Ballesteros, Cruz is charged with "extortion." [concusion].

The law specifies a one to six year prison term for that crime, in addition to a 50- to 100-day fine [each day equals $1]

In addition to Cruz, Ballesteros also suspended Ariel Alvarado from his post as secretary general for narcotics at the Attorney General's Office. He was later reinstated.

Alvarado resigned a few days after he was reinstated, stating that he believed the "Attorney General's Office is handled politically."

Cruz described his suspension as a "legal aberration" and stated that his "morale is high" and that Donatillo Ballesteros "sold his soul to the devil."

Cruz has repeatedly given assurances that he will again be attorney general because he considers himself innocent.

The separated attorney general filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus seeking to overturn Ballesteros' order "because Ballesteros' resolution was a violation. [no closing quotation mark as published] Cruz also presented a writ of amparo for constitutional guarantees seeking to cancel the safeguard measures, house arrest, and prohibition to leave the country ordered by the solicitor general.

The Supreme Court accepted Cruz's writ of amparo but turned down the petition to suspend the solicitor general's order to remove Cruz from the attorney general post.

Cruz called on the Supreme Court to summon him to a public trial to meet the solicitor general "face to face," prove his innocence, and uncover the generalized corruption in Molirena.

After a few days the Supreme Court dropped the safeguard measures against Cruz (house arrest) but decided that he would remain separated from his post.

The case continues and legal sources have told LA PRENSA that this week the merits of the solicitor general's case against Cruz will be decided.

The Supreme Court may opt to dismiss the case [sobreseimiento] if it believes there is insufficient evidence to implicate the removed attorney general or to take him to trial.

Poll Shows Support for Mixed Canal Management

PA2704212793 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 Apr 93 p 1a

[Report by Jose Quintero De Leon]

[Text] A recent public opinion poll conducted by the private consulting firm Dichter and Neyra, reveals that 30.6 percent of Panamanians believe that after the year 2000, the Panama Canal should be managed by a joint corporation formed by the government and the private sector.

The poll also points out that an additional 25 percent of those Panamanians polled believe that a private corporation should manage the canal in such a way as to allow the public to own shares.

At least 24 percent think that the government should manage the canal while 17.7 percent are convinced that it should be an independent agency.

According to the poll, of those who favor joint corporation management of the canal, 29.4 percent are from the capital city, and 31 percent are women, while 36.8 percent have some degree of higher education.

The results reflect the skepticism held by those interviewed on the canal being managed independently by an autonomous institution such as the Interoceanic Region Authority (ARI), recently created to manage the reverted areas.

The results indicate that those persons polled have more confidence in a mixed management enterprise, which reports better results, such as the case of Petroterminal of Panama, than if the canal were to be exclusively managed by the government or the private sector.

The public poll, where only 2.5 percent of those interviewed abstained from responding, was carried out based on 1,201 individual interviews with adult Panamanians living in Panama City, Colon, David, Las Tablas, Chitre, Santiago, Penonome, La Chorrera, and San Miguelito.

Those interviewees included 602 men and 599 women. Of the total interviewed, 826 were employed and 375 were unemployed. Each group was divided into categories according to age and education level.

The poll was carried out between Monday, 12 April, and Sunday, 18 April, and has a 3-percent margin of error.

Sample similarity was obtained by using stratified random sampling. Stratification was based on gender, academic background, and employment status.

Argentina

Former Health Minister To Lead Justicialist Party

PY2904010793 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 28 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] (NA)—Former Health Minister Julio Cesar Araoz will provisionally take over as leader of the ruling Justicialist Party (PJ) following the irrevocable resignation of current acting chairman Roberto Garcia, party sources said yesterday.

Araoz's arrival consolidates the stronghold of so-called ultra-Menemists in the party leadership, which is now further distanced from the internal lines of Mendoza Senator Jose Octavio Bordon and Jose Manuel de la Sota from Cordoba. De la Sota is vying directly with Araoz in Cordoba, their home province.

In a letter to President Carlos Menem dated April 22, Garcia reportedly announced his resignation for "personal reasons" as second vice-president and acting chairman of the Justicialist Party. (The party president, vice-president and first vice-president—Menem, Provisional Senate President Eduardo Menem and former city mayor Carlos Grosso—are currently on leave.)

Although he failed to give further reasons for his departure, insiders said Garcia left frustrated over sterile infighting within party ranks as well as the constant meddling in party affairs of Government House officials.

Argentine Industrial Union Elects New President

PY2904011093 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 28 Apr 93 p 5

[Excerpts] (NA)—Jorge Blanco Villegas was voted president of the Argentine Industrial Union (UIA) yesterday, as the only candidate on the ballot.

In his acceptance speech the vice-president of the Sevel auto manufacturing company said that the UIA "will not be argumentative nor a centre for generating disputes, nor will it make complaining its style." These guiding principles show Blanco Villegas marked contrast to his predecessor Israel Mahler.

The executive spoke of the government's achievement of economic stability and the return of predictability to the business world. Notwithstanding this, he repeated the industrialists' historical request that the Argentine cost be lowered and that greater access to credit be made available.

"The Argentine cost makes our goods uncompetitive and keeps us from competing on equal terms," Blanco Villegas said. He attributed the lack of loans to the fact that "the banks haven't taken on the risks that the industrial sector has."

The new president stated that the development achieved by the West was not done without state involvement. To exemplify state intervention in successful economies, he cited U.S. trade laws, Japan's selective imports policy and Korea's industrial credit programme. [passage omitted]

The new executive committee voted in with Blanco Villegas is as follows: first vice-president: Gilberto Montagna, Terrabussi president, Second vice-president: Luis Jose Vasallo, Zanella executive, third vice-president: Murat Eurnekian, textiles businessman, fourth vice-president, Patricio Lagos, Alpargatas executive. Other members of the committee come from the companies Aluar, Arcor, Techint and Ipako.

Air Force Health Unit Departs For Mozambique

PY2804233293 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1247 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Apr (NA)—An Air Force health unit left today at 0125 (0425 GMT) for Mozambique where it will carry out humanitarian duties in compliance with a UN request.

The unit is part of a total of 40 Air Force personnel who will serve at the Air Force field hospital which has already been shipped to Mozambique.

The unit is under the command of Vice Commodore Osvaldo Raul Battioni and includes surgeons, general practitioners, intensive care experts, dentists, biochemists, x-ray assistants, and trained nurses.

The unit also includes a group of technicians who will set up the hospital and maintain it.

Bolivia

Paz Notes Government Support for Naval Expansion

PY2404031593 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Excerpts] President Jaime Paz Zamora today participated in a ceremony to celebrate the Bolivian Navy's 30th anniversary at the Naval College. Ministers, high-ranking military authorities, legislators, commanders, officers, troops, and special guests attended the ceremony.

Bolivian Navy Commander Admiral Miguel Alvarez Delgado, on behalf of the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, decorated several legislators. In a speech to mark the occasion, Adm. Delgado reviewed the history of the Bolivian Navy and noted that a prosperous future with new achievements lies ahead of this force. [passage omitted]

During a chat with journalists at the end of the ceremony, President Paz Zamora referred to the Navy's navigation possibilities.

[Begin Paz recording, in progress] ...expansion of the Navy's territorial coverage, such as the naval base

recently established on a branch of the Bermejo River, which is another sign of our presence in the River Plate Basin. I think that the Navy is expanding and the government tries to cooperate with the Navy commander for the well-being of this institution. Then we have the shipyard, which is almost finished on Lake Titicaca, and the training ship we are going to build on the lake that will be 54 meters long, is that right? It will be a 54 meter-long vessel to train Navy cadets and officers. In other words, the Navy commander is carrying out a series of projects in several parts of the country which are constantly endorsed by the government. [end recording]

Defense Official Denies Involvement in Arms Trafficking

PY2604211293 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] National Defense Under Secretary General Victor Vargas has said that the organizations that depend on the Armed Forces are not involved in the recently reported illegal international purchase and sell of weapons. The operation was conducted by an international arms trafficking gang that used some commercial weapons firms to buy weapons in the name of the Bolivian Armed Forces to then sell in some European countries.

Trade Agreement Signed During Russian Minister's Visit

PY2604224093 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Apr 93 Economy Section P 2

[Article by Sonia Racy from the "Straight From The Source" column]

[Text] During Russian Economy Minister Sergey Glazyev's official visit, which ended this week, an interesting agreement was signed between the enterprises ITS [expansion unknown] and Monteiro Aranha.

This protocol will coordinate a consortium of Brazilian enterprises that will export goods and services, estimated to push bilateral trade up to $1 billion.

In order to pursue this agreement, Herve Seguer, of the Monteiro Aranha group, will leave for Moscow tomorrow.

Interior Ministry Arrests Seven ELN Members

PY2904020793 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 2340 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] [Monitored in progress] ...held a news conference to report the arrest of seven members of the Army of National Liberation, ELN, a group that has not been in the public eye for a long time.

Interior Minister Carlos Armando Saavedra and his assistants provided the names of the seven ELN members and also exhibited the guns and propaganda material that was seized.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] In a recent operation, the Interior Ministry arrested seven ELN members who had a safe house located in Villa Adela, El Alto district.

It has been established that with the arrest of these people, the ELN, which was more dedicated to robberies than to the perpetration of subversive actions, has been totally disbanded.

At the time of these arrests, officials seized pamphlets, guns, five cars, and communications and computer equipment, among other items.

They have been identified as follows: Manuel Morales Alvarez, Rita Saavedra de Morales, Adelio Aguilar Wilka, Claudio Villegas, Ramiro Molinedo, Arnold Ibanez, and Raul Ibanez.

[Saavedra, in progress] ...these individuals will be placed at the disposal of the Bolivian courts, which, based on all the information obtained from government security organizations, will determine whether these people have been involved in illegal activities.

[Reporter] Moreover, Interior Minister Carlos Saavedra said police institutions are carrying out effective work regarding the detection of subversive groups, particularly because Bolivia is characterized as being a peaceful country.

[Saavedra] We believe there is no other ELN cell, that this ELN cell (?was in its initial stages). To the satisfaction of the Interior Ministry, security organizations, and the entire country, Bolivia continues to be an island of peace in comparison to the situations of unrest experienced in other countries.

[Reporter] In addition, this subversive group had planned to rob an exchange house and a local jewelry store. Moreover, in view of these security operations, Bolivian society is safe and thus ours will continue to be a peaceful country. [end recording]

Brazil

Foreign Minister Views NAFTA's Effect on Trade With Mexico

PY2604235693 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2003 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Brasilia, 22 Apr (EFE)—Brazil is worried about the negative effects that the North American Free Trade Agreement, (NAFTA) which Mexico has signed with the United States of America, may have on its trade with Mexico.

Brazilian Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso has stated that the Brazilan Government will soon begin negotiations with its Mexican counterpart to obtain special trading conditions.

"Since Mexico is a member of the Latin American Free Trade Association (ALADI), it must grant to other ALADI members the concessions it has granted to NAFTA countries," Cardoso said, adding that since this formula is not feasible, "we will hold special negotiations."

Brazil is the recipient of 60 percent of all Mexican exports to Latin America. Mexico is the second largest buyer of Brazilian goods, right after Argentina.

The bilateral trade balance heavily favors Brazil, since this country exported $1.1 billion worth of goods to Mexico in 1992, while it imported Mexican products worth only $311 million.

Trade between the two countries has been growing substantially. According to Serna, an official of the Mexican Embassy in Brazil, Mexican exports to Brazil grew by 123 percent, while Brazilian exports to Mexico increased by 52 percent.

The government-controlled Mexican Foreign Trade National Bank [Banco Nacional de Comercio Exterior] is currently negotiating with the Bank of Brazil a line of credit of between $10 and 40 million to stimulate Mexican exports to Brazil.

"This line of credit will help finance all sorts of goods, and loans can be paid back in one to nine years, depending on the type of project," Serna explained.

Mexican companies want to sell Brazil spare parts for cars, chemical and pharmaceutical products, oil industry equipment, computers, and shoes.

Regarding NAFTA, the Mexican diplomat said that even though "the United States and Canada are our natural partners, Brazil is one of the key countries in Mexico's trade strategy."

Orestes Quercia Resigns as PMDB President

PY2704021693 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Speakers identified by screen captions]

[Excerpts] Former Sao Paulo Governor Orestes Quercia has resigned as president of the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party [PMDB] and announced that he will not accept a bid for reelection.

[Begin Reporter Pedro Chagas Neto recording] Former Governor Orestes Quercia wrote a 60 line letter to make his resignation offical. He stated that party interests come before his own.

He said in his letter that the process of succession within the party has become excessively radicalized, and while his political rivals are making a great deal of noise, his partisans are guilty of an even greater silence. Not to mention, according to him, those who claim to be faithful supporters while trying to knife him in the back.

The former governor made it very clear that he will not run for reelection at the PMDB convention scheduled for 30 May. [passage omitted]

This afternoon the former governor told a few friends that his decision is irrevocable, even though pro-Quercia deputies appear to be ready to launch a movement against his resignation. Early this evening the former governor phoned Senate President Humberto Lucena to say that he stands by the terms of his letter and to reaffirm that his resignation is irrevocable. [end recording] [passage omitted]

New PMDB President Appointed

PY2904024693 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] The PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] has a new president. The decision was made in Brasilia today.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Delis Ortiz] The PMDB spent two days without a president. Today PMDB Vice President Jarbas Vasconcellos was installed as the new president, but he asked for a leave of absence because he is the Recife prefect. The second vice president, Senator Jose Fogaca, then was installed. Fogaca will be in charge of managing the transition in the PMDB.

[Fogaca] The acting PMDB president will have to implement the needed measures for carrying out the party convention on 30 May.

[Ortiz] The new party president will have to prevent friction, and to do that he will have to resort to a formula of unity: talk and forget, and he will have to start with Governor Jader Barbalho, a disillusioned party member who supports Orestes Quercia. The order now is to seek consensus, and all party members admit that this depends on Orestes Quercia. [end recording]

Visiting Armenian Group Meets President, Foreign Minister

NC2304085393 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1530 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Brazilian President Itamar Franco yesterday received the Armenian delegation currently on a working visit there. Vice President Gagik Arutyunyan heads the delegation. Brazilian Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso also took part in the meeting.

An interesting exchange of views took place at the meeting on the development on bilateral relations and consolidation of cooperation in international organizations.

Arutyunyan enumerated the stance of the Armenian leadership on various international and regional problems, saying he hopes Brazil and Armenia will work together to peacefully resolve these problems. The sides agreed to continue (?exchanging views) between the foreign ministries and governments on issues of mutual interest and concluded a number of agreements.

The Armenian delegation met various Armenian organizations of the Armenian community in Sao Paulo, visited Armenian educational establishments, and organized a large meeting of the local branch of the Armenia Fund.

Arutyunyan met the mayor of Sao Paulo, (Luis Antonio Levori Melio), on 20 April. They discussed the possibility of establishing economic and cultural ties between Sao Paulo state and Armenia.

Chile

Aylwin, Argentina's Menem Meet in Magallanes Region

PY2904015193 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Chilean President Patricio Aylwin and Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem met today under open skies and a bright sun. The two dignitaries met first in Bahia Posesion, on Chilean territory, and then in Cerro Redondo, on Argentine territory.

After these meetings and after hearing details of the important agreement for oil exploration signed between Enap [National Petroleum Enterprise] and YPF [Government Oil Deposits], the two presidents held a news conference.

As a curious detail we must note that before the two presidents talked about the oil exploration agreement you could hear Tango Malena on the loudspeaker [reference unknown]. This, obviously, on Argentine territory.

Later the two presidents returned to Bahia Posesion, located 300 km from Punta Arenas, and talked with reporters.

Asked about the controversial book entitled Diplomatic Impunity that was banned in Chile and about what the book says about the activities of Argentine Ambassador to Chile Oscar Espinoza Melo, Menem said:

[Begin recording] That is not a book; it is pure slander. I have not read it. I do not intend to read it. I detest this type of thing. I think court actions against the book are a waste of time. The friendship I had with this ambassador is practically over. It is worthless to talk about this matter. It is totally unimportant. The book was not taken seriously in Argentina. It did not have any meaning. This slanderous writing has nothing to do with reality. [end recording]

The Argentine president also was asked about the killing of two Chilean peasants near the border. Menem said he talked about the matter with his friend President Aylwin. I told him those allegedly responsible are being tried in Argentina. The matter will be decided quickly because it is being heard by a jury, which is something new in Argentine criminal cases. We will keep the Chilean Government informed through the Foreign Ministry or their ambassadors. This matter is being heard by the courts. We will respond quickly if Chile forwards any request for information. We are interested in a quick resolution of the case, Menem said.

The two presidents bade each other farewell at the Bahia Posesion airport after having lunch with their foreign ministers and other officials accompanying them. Aylwin then flew to Punta Arenas and Menem to his country.

Plan To Apply UN Biological Diversity Convention Submitted

PY2804181993 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 13 Apr 93 p 16

[Article by Irene Strodthoff]

[Text] After presenting a diagnosis and national action plan to protect our country's flora and fauna, Chile yesterday became the first Latin American country to apply the Convention on Biological Diversity signed during the Earth Summit [UN Conference on the Environment and Development]. This was reported by Rafael Asenjo, executive secretary of the the National Environmental Committee [Comision Nacional del Medio Ambiente] (Conama).

Asenjo indicated: "Chile is the first country in Latin America—and the second country in the world—to develop this work."

About 500 government, university, and research group professionals concentrated for two years on issues such as legislation on and education about biodiversity, increasing the ecological staff in wild areas protected by the state, and the conservation of ecosystems and areas that create goods and services such as fishing, forestry, and agriculture.

The proposal will be discussed by state, private, and academic circles within the next two months.

The proposal's 50-page text, divided into four sections, reports a lack of coordination between the ministries and public institutions on biodiversity, scarce reports on this issue, and the low number of available studies.

The ceremony was attended by representatives of institutions such as the Industrial Development Association (Sofofa), the Council of Chilean University Rectors [Consejo de Rectores de las Universidades Chilenas], and the U.S. International Development Agency (IDA).

Mapuche Candidates To Run for Congress in Elections

PY2804214293 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 7 Apr 93 p C5

[Excerpts] Temuco (Ivan Fredes Guerrero)—The Mapuche Coordinating Board—an Indian multiparty coalition that includes the most representative organizations of this ethnic group—has decided to propose its own leaders as candidates for deputies and senators because it believes the Ninth Region's incumbent deputies and senators do not represent indigenous people. [passage omitted]

The Mapuche candidates for deputies are: Domingo Marileo of "Ad Mapu" for Constituency No. 48; Jose Luis Levi from "Choin Folíche" and Juan Catalan Lincoqueo from "Ad Mapu" for Constituency No. 49; Cirilo Antinao from "Roble Huacho," Camilo Qulaman from "Callfullican," and Ana Llao Llao from "Ad Mapu" for Constituency No. 50; Rosa Isolde Reuque from "Kellukleayun Pu Zomo," Emilio Cayuqueo Millan from "Callfulican," Ramon Chanqueo Filumil from "Lautaro 'i Aylla Rehue," and Lorenzo Levio Chicahual from "Ad Mapu" for Constituency No. 51; and Juan Mario Mila from "Ad Mapu" for Constituency No. 51 [constituency number as published].

The Mapuche Coordinating Board also announced the senatorial candidacies of Jose Santos Millao, member of the Commission for Indigenous Peoples, Cepi, and leader of "Ad Mapu," and Sergio Liempi Marin, Mapuche Biblical Society chairman. [passage omitted]

Colombia

Court To Support Internal Disturbance Measures

PA2604190093 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Report by Jesus Garzon]

[Text] The Colombian Government will receive absolute judicial support in its struggle against guerrillas and drug-trafficking activities. The "TV Today" newscast was able to learn that the Constitutional Court is preparing to declare that the 32 decrees issued by the government as part of the state of internal disturbance are legitimate according to the law.

The Constitutional Court's decision, which is expected to be made public sometime this week, will provide added judicial grounds to the 32 decrees issued as result of the state of internal disturbance. As a result of this, measures such as the reward system for the arrest of drug traffickers and guerrillas; prohibition of regional dialogues with guerrillas; protection of witnesses and victims of terrorism; freezing bank accounts owned by drug traffickers and subversives; confiscation of assets owned by criminals; controls for guns, ammunition, and explosives; control of all radio communication systems; free hospital services to victims of terrorist attacks; benefits for aiding the justice system and for those guerrillas who voluntarily abandon their weapons; as well as an increase in the penalties for all terrorist related crimes, will continue in effect.

Under these conditions, the government is preparing to appear before the Senate during the next few days to request a 90-day extension of the state of internal disturbance. If congress approves the request, it would be the third time the state of internal disturbance has been extended. In other words, the internal disturbance measures would be in effect until 8 August. Afterwards, Congress would then have to decide if the measures issued by the government will be permanent. In addition, Congress, during the next legislative term, would have to regulate exemptions included in the new Constitution establishing when and where the government is entitled to use extraordinary powers.

Consequently, the government will be fully empowered with the judicial tools to confront drug trafficking and terrorism.

Authorities Seize Guerrilla Training Video

PA2404131493 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Report by Diego Alonso Sanchez]

[Text] The guerrillas must be very happy with the ruling against the war bonds because—whether we care to accept this or not—it will reduce the money available to combat them.

Of course, with or without bonds, the guerrillas do not stop training. The most current images of Manuel Perez, alias El Cura, the top leader of the National Liberation Army, ELN—for whom the government is paying a 1-billion pesos reward—are on a video currently in the hands of Colombian authorities.

Our personnel had access to the video, which was filmed by a Spanish photographer in the Colombian jungles. The video shows how a group of 30 aspiring guerrillas are trained. It also shows ELN military commander Nicolas Rodriguez Bautista, alias Gabino, at a guerrilla camp. He is presented as an exemplary guerrilla as he has been in the organization since he was 14. The authorities consider the video as clearly trying to promote a guerilla personality cult.

The video was seized from Martin Julio Restrepo Arango, alias El Maestro, who was arrested in Medellin a few days ago. He is one of the few people in the guerrilla organization who had access to the guerrilla videos. Official sources have said that El Maestro used videos to indoctrinate and train the people's militia groups, which operate under his command in the Aburra valley.

Documents on Cali Cartel Routes Found at Itagui Jail

PA2404225993 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] At the maximum security jail in Itagui, which is always full of surprises, authorities discovered a complete intelligence report on the Cali Cartel. It was found in a secret compartment in Roberto Escobar Gaviria's desk.

From the cells of the maximum security jail in Itagui, the Medellin Cartel was kept informed of the Cali Cartel's movements. The documents found in hidden compartments in Roberto Escobar Gaviria's desk contain specific and recent information on new routes used by the Cali mafia to export drugs to the United States and Europe. In addition to the new routes, the documents contain an analysis of the Cali Cartel's latest financial reports.

The documents were discovered during an operation carried out at the Itagui Jail, in which 100 members of the Judicial Police and Investigations Directorate participated. The secret compartments where the documents were found are similar in type to those found in La Catedral Jail. Authorities are conducting an investigation to determine how that type of furniture could have been brought into the country's maximum security jail when the same method had been used before.

Paraguay

Rodriguez Views U.S. Envoy's Position on Elections

PY2904002493 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 2259 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] President Andres Rodriguez has said that he is not aware of a statement by General Lino Cesar Oviedo. Consequently, he reiterated his promise that the elections will be held on 9 May and that the results will be respected.

[Begin recording] [Rodriguez] Actually, I am not aware of it. As you know, I have been busy here since very early this morning. I believe you can obtain more accurate information from the commander of the military forces.

[Unidentified reporter] Did you meet with the U.S. Ambassador in your capacity as commander in chief of the Armed Forces? Did you address that subject at the meeting?

[Rodriguez] No, we did not address that subject. I only assured him that the unfailing objective of the executive branch is to hold the elections on 9 May, with full guarantees, and that I would like voters to approach the ballot boxes in a respectful, educated, courteous, and happy way to cast their votes, which will be the final verdict that will be respected. [end recording]

The president added that he does not understand if Ambassador Jon Glassman also wants to participate in the Paraguayan political life.

[Begin Rodriguez recording] I do not know whether Ambassador Glassman actually wants to participate in the internal political life of a country like ours, or what is happening. I only spoke with him about his country's concern over the democratic transition in our country—and things like that. I told him he should not be concerned about it. He was also concerned about a note that had been submitted to the Supreme Court. I told him the elections will be held on 9 May, as I have already said on so many occasions. [end recording]

Colorado Deputy Says U.S. Ambassador 'Meddling'

PY2804234093 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 28 Apr 93 p 6

[Text] Colorado Party Deputy Sandino Gil Oporto said that U.S. Ambassador Jon Glassman is meddling in Paraguayan affairs, that he is going far beyond his ambassadorial duties. Gil Oporto previously had questioned President Rodriguez' attitude for not adopting a firmer position regarding the U.S. ambassador.

According to Gil Oporto, the U.S. ambassador believes he is authorized to command and steer the current political process. Gil Oporto said: "This is not the first time a U.S. ambassador has adopted such an attitude. During Peron's time in Argentina, there was the well-known [U.S. Ambassador] Braden who adopted a similar attitude. Peron won the elections when he asked Argentine voters to choose between Peron or Braden. Of course, the Argentine people chose Peron."

Sandino Gil Oporto said that because of the dignity of the post he holds, the president should adopt a firmer position with the U.S. ambassador. Gil Oporto did not reject the possibility of returning Glassman's credentials as when other countries have sent U.S. ambassadors back to their country.

He said: "The ambassador cannot be making such statements. Glassman is the only ambassador who is making these statements. The Uruguayan or Argentine ambassadors do not make them. Why does he (Glassman) feel he is entitled to issue these opinions? If all ambassadors are to issue their opinions about the domestic affairs of a given country, a sort of international chamber of ambassadors must be established. But such a thing would be utterly absurd."

Sandino Gil Oporto said the United States has upheld similar positions ever since Theodore Roosevelt's time and before the enforcement of the Big Stick policy. He added that in some countries this policy is implemented with more insolence and in a more peculiar manner.

Gen Oviedo Says Armed Forces Support Colorado

PY2804165693 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 28 Apr 93 p 21

[Text] General Lino Cesar Oviedo, commander of the 1st Army Corps, said yesterday during a luncheon at the Interior Ministry that it is the Armed Forces' decision "to govern together with the glorious Colorado Party forever and ever, until the country attains its common well-being, like it or not, no matter who it pleases, bothers, or hurts, no matter who may protest." The military chief attended a meeting of Colorado mayors of the interior, during which he stressed that Armed Forces members are not made of butter, while warning the opposition that they will not remain impassive in preventing the downfall of the Colorado Party.

Gen. Oviedo gave an energetic, aggressive, and entirely political speech during the meeting, which was attended by Colorado Party President Blas N. Riquelme, Colorado presidential candidate Juan Carlos Wasmosy, and the commanders of the Army, Air Force, and Navy. In addition to the Colorado mayors from the interior, Interior Ministry officials also attended the meeting.

The military chief repeatedly said, in a vigorous tone, that the Armed Forces will govern together with the Colorado Party as of 15 August this year, and he questioned remarks by some opposition leaders such as Euclides Acevedo [Febrerista Revolutionary Party leader], to whom he referred disparagingly, as well as Hermes Saguier [Authentic Radical Liberal Party leader].

Oviedo recalled a statement by former Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti, who said that one cannot "govern against the Armed Forces, only with them."

He added that former Argentine President Raul Alfonsin "did not understand this and attempted to govern in opposition to the Armed Forces. So he had to throw in the towel six months earlier than planned, leaving the government in anarchy and total poverty."

Oviedo said that in a country where national security is not guaranteed, no investor, businessman, industrialist, cattle rearer, or capitalist will want to invest his money, because "money is like a swallow; it seeks the best place for investment."

Paraphrasing a foreign sociologist, Oviedo said that "legal power and real power represent a marriage that must continue united, just as are the Colorado Party and the Armed Forces."

"Our decision is to govern together with the glorious and immortal Colorado Party forever and ever, until the country really attains its common well-being, like it or not, no matter who it pleases, bothers, or hurts, no matter who may protest," Oviedo said categorically.

He stressed that people must not believe that "those of us who are fortunate, who have the honor, the privilege, and the great responsibility of remaining in the ranks of the Armed Forces, are made of butter."

"We are the descendants of the great conductors of the 1870 war and of the Chaco war. We are the ones who have given to even the last opposition member the right to speak and vote," Oviedo said.

In questioning the criticisms made by some opposition leaders, he said that "weaklings whose moral and intellectual stature is no greater than their height—like the "Strutting Cock" [Euclides Acevedo]—offend, attack, and want to denigrate us with unspeakable insults, such as when Acevedo said: If we are lucky and come to power, after 15 August there will be only four generals at the most; and our budget, effective forces, and provisions will be curtailed and, as Rambo Saguier promised, distributed among the teachers."

In an unusual warning tone, Oviedo added that "we have the same courage, decision, and balls, and we will not remain impassive."

He told those in attendance that the Armed Forces members are not, "as we have been labeled by the National Encounter Alliance and Authentic Radical Liberal Party, military men dressed in green, walking lazybones, or pomberos [mythological Paraguayan monster] with caps."

"We are not pomberos who are hiding away; we are those who brought freedom and democracy on 2 and 3 February to the entire Paraguayan people," he added.

"Now we will win again, and we will remain for one more presidential term, and then we will see what comes afterwards. The devil you know is better than the devil you don't know. Neither I nor the Armed Forces want to experiment with another political party which has yet not won, and which has begun to turn against us and denigrate us," Oviedo said.

In a tone of irony Oviedo said that those who wish to speak evil of the Armed Forces have not even passed in front of a military unit, so he reiterated, in the name of the Armed Forces, that they would win in the 9 May elections to govern together with the Colorado Party.

It has been learned that General Oviedo made similar statements during the meeting he attended on 26 April at the Police School, in the presence of top police officers and members of the Armed Forces. On that occasion he said that the Colorado Wasmosy-Seifart ticket is the only one that has promised to govern together with the Armed Forces.

Reactions to Oviedo's Remarks Noted

PY2804232293

[Editorial report] Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish on 28 April publishes five articles on reactions to General Lino Oviedo's remarks on 27 April.

In an unattributed 200-word article on page 2, General Anibal Regis Romero, presidential military household chief, said that what Gen. Lino Oviedo said at an Interior Ministry meeting on 27 April "is his opinion." Regis Romero refused to comment on Oviedo's speech because "he was not present at the meeting" and learned about it through the press. "You have to ask Gen. Oviedo," Regis Romero added.

An unattributed 250-word article on page 4 reports that Deputy Francisco Jose de Vargas and Hermes Rafael Saguier, of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party, PLRA, visited Vice Admiral Eduardo Gonzalez Petit to demand that sanctions be applied against Gen. Oviedo. Saguier told reporters that Gonzalez Petit said Oviedo's remarks were only "a reaction to recent strong criticisms against him." Saguier said Gen. Oviedo's remarks were "inadmissible" and "unjustifiable." The article says that "Gonzalez Petit agreed to talk about the matter with President Andres Rodriguez and Gen. Oviedo," adding that the Armed Forces "fully support President Rodriguez and the transition process." Saguier said that if nothing is done to clarify the situation we will organize "a general mobilization to demand Gen. Oviedo's retirement."

An unattributed 250-word article on the same page reports that National Encounter presidential candidate Guillermo Caballero Vargas said he was "very concerned about Gen. Oviedo's very grave declarations." Caballero Vargas added that the military is committed to defending the fatherland and its legitimate authorities, while Oviedo is participating "in Wasmosy-Seifart's political campaign." Caballero Vargas said: "We cannot permit the participation of high- ranking military officers in political-partisan campaigns, in violation of constitutional tenets." Caballero Vargas concluded by saying that Gen. Oviedo "owes an explanation to the population."

Another unattributed 250-word article on the same page reports that Colorado Party presidential candidate Juan Carlos Wasmosy said: "Lino Oviedo has the right to issue an opinion on our political situation because the military are not second-class citizens." Wasmosy said that "perhaps it was just a reaction" to an opposition proposal to reduce the size of the Armed Forces. Asked if the Armed Forces will govern together with the Colorado Party, Wasmosy said: "Each one will fulfill its specific role and I will be the Armed Forces commander in chief."

A fourth unattributed 250-word article on page 4 reports that PLRA presidential candidate Domingo Laino said his party "will resort to all international forums, particularly neighboring countries and the United States, to protest 1st Corps Commander Gen. Lino Oviedo's grave constitutional violations." Laino added that "Gen. Oviedo cannot embark on a political campaign because he is on active duty. The Constitution forbids it."

Argana Movement Communique on Request To Postpone Election

PY2804210393 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 28 Apr 93 p 3

[Text] The Colorado Reconciliation Movement, which nominated Luis Maria Argana as its presidential candidate and Juan Bautista Ybanez as its vice presidential candidate, issued a communique yesterday defining responsibilities for a petition to postpone the elections scheduled for 9 May.

The communique notes: "Our movement informs its supporters and the public that the petition to postpone the general elections scheduled for 9 May that was presented to the Supreme Court of Justice was signed by Colorado Party legislators from various internal movements, including some of our movement's comrades who have acted in a personal way and as legislators, without involving our movement's sponsorship or participation."

The communique adds: "This clarification has been prompted by biased reports published by the newspapers trying to compromise the Colorado Reconciliation Movement, reports we categorically reject." The communique is signed by engineer Ybanez in the absence of Dr. Argana.

The Argana supporters who signed the communique are Victor Hugo Sanchez, Juan Roque Galeano, Lorenzo Garbet, Bernardo Rodriguez, Federico Zayas, Hipolito Mendoza, and Pablo Narvaja.

Senate Blocks Bill for Electoral Courts To Judge Elections

PY2904155593 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 27 Apr 93 p 9

[Text] By a one-vote margin the Colorado Senate bloc managed yesterday to reject a draft bill that established that the electoral courts of the Republic would judge the 9 May elections.

In this manner, the judgment of the elections will be made by Congress, according to Law No. 75 approved last year and which modified the Electoral Code.

The draft bill was discussed for two hours during a special Senate session yesterday.

The bill was drafted by Waldino Ramon Lovera and Rodrigo Campos Cervera, who said that if the bill were approved some gaps in the Electoral Code would be filled in. They consider that the law allowing Congress to judge the elections is unconstitutional because Constitution Article No. 273 establishes that this is the electoral courts' jurisdiction.

Colorado Senator Carlos Augusto Saldivar argued the most against the approval of this bill, which he described as unconstitutional. After the debate they decided to hold a nominal voting session.

Fifteen Colorado Senators voted against the bill while 14 others, including Authentic Radical Liberal Party, Febrerista Revolutionary Party, and even Colorado party members, voted in favor.

Senators Aquina Marino, Alberto Nogues, Carlos Romero Pereira, were the three Colorados, beside Lovera, to vote in favor. Those who voted against it were Fulgencio Aldana, Julio R. Elizeche, Marco Antonio Elizeche, Delio Farina, Alcibiades Fernandez, Jorge Raul Garcete, Carlos Ocampos Arbo, Jose Ovelar, Pedro H. Pena, Ceferino Ramirez, Blas N. Riquelme, Carlos A. Saldivar, Artemio Vera, Federico Zayas, and Carlos Zayas Vallejos, all of whom are Colorados.

Presidential Candidate Laino Interviewed

PY2704034093 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 24 Apr 93 p 9

[Interview with Domingo Laino, presidential candidate for the Authentic Radical Liberal Party, PLRA, by unidentified ULTIMA HORA reporter; date and place not given]

[ULTIMA HORA] What will be your relationship with the Armed Forces?

[Laino] I believe the Armed Forces are a key factor in our country because they are de facto holders of power and they are too predominant. We will continue with the 3 February project, promoting their professionalism, their honor, and the end of partisan politics in the Armed Forces.

[ULTIMA HORA] How will you operate with the Armed Forces?

[Laino] If I am elected president, in which case I will be the civil commander in chief, operations with the Armed Forces will be ruled entirely by the Constitution, which will provide the guidelines for our action within the Armed Forces.

[ULTIMA HORA] What is your interpretation of the creation of the post of military forces commander? Won't it curtail the president's powers over the Armed Forces?

[Laino] Even though the creation of this post does not violate the new Constitution, I believe yours is a reasonable supposition. It is a hasty decision, because there are no regulations for the post. We can say that based on this hasty decision, the military forces commander will be the Armed Forces' interlocutor as of 15 August. Anyway, we believe we are in a transition and that we should always pormote dialogue and a consensus, especially within the Armed Forces.

[ULTIMA HORA] What does professionalization of the Armed Forces mean?

[Laino] In the first place, it means to end partisan politics inside the institution. Professionalism means that the Armed Forces have to concentrate on their objectives and goals, which include areas like national defense, territorial integration, and sovereignty.

[ULTIMA HORA] In other words, you believe that professionalization is to concentrate on the Armed Forces' specific tasks.

[Laino] Those are specific areas in which the Armed Forces should concentrate their efforts, doing away with all matters of partisan politics. We also believe we should become aware that the National Security Doctrine is based on possible conflicts for which there is currently no ground. The East-West conflict has disappeared, and it is difficult to admit the possibility of a world war. Furthermore, we have good relations with our Latin American neighbors.

[ULTIMA HORA] Based on a review of the latest events, has there been progress or retrogression in the political area?

[Laino] We have been sort of zigzagging. Four years ago we began to move forward. Yet recently there has been retrogression in the use of some resources that are in the hands of a state that favors its supporters and that grants privileges.

[ULTIMA HORA] How can we see that retrogression?

[Laino] The pressure on public servants, the uncontrolled and shameless use of state resources for a political party, and the attempts to continue with the practice of fraud. We are listening to reports on serious irregularities in the electoral records, which seemed to be part of a fraud designed for 9 May.

[ULTIMA HORA] Don't you believe that the elections on 9 May will be clean and transparent?

[Laino] If the opposition, and if clean, honest people do not adopt the necessary precautions—making critical remarks and reports to correct those mistakes, with the support of international observers—there will be a series of dishonest intentions that might get complicated.

[ULTIMA HORA] Do you believe that Colorado Party members will respect the results of the ballot boxes if they lose the elections?

[Laino] I am more interested in the attitude of the Armed Forces, which are de facto holders of power. There are groups who will probably try to prevent the transfer of power from this government to a civil government. We also know that some officers are willing to support a democratization process, force the transfer of power, abide by the Constitution, and support the professionalization of the Armed Forces and the elimination of partisan politics from the institution.

[ULTIMA HORA] What are your plans in case of fraud or attempts to disregard the election results?

[Laino] Considering the possibility of fraud, we were the first to request the presence of OAS observers. We also requested the presence of European leaders. We are trying to have them as observers, so that their presence may help reduce fraud.

[ULTIMA HORA] Did you take any other measures?

[Laino] We have groups over which no advertisements have been made, and who are working to make sure that the elections will be clean. They are aware of what is happening at some centers where Esteche Fanego and Gabazza, the leader of the Colorado Party precinct of Lambare, are masterminding tricks. We are closely watching them, because there are Colorado Party members who are cooperating with us to unmask these individuals, who seem to be engaged in tricks.

[ULTIMA HORA] What will the PLRA do if there is fraud and if the election results are not respected?

[Laino] We will never accept a president who was not voted into office by a majority of the Paraguayan people.

For obvious reasons, we do not meddle with internal Colorado Party affairs, but an internal party election is quite diferent from a national election. We will raise our voice and will make all nonviolent efforts to prevent fraud.

[ULTIMA HORA] If you are elected, will you use the experience that you gained by overcoming internal diagreements within the PLRA?

[Laino] Unity within a pluralistic system is essential, because just as we could manage our internal disagreements, we will manage a pluralistic situation in a national government. All groups should have much patience and tolerance during this period of transition. A policy of consensus should be designed. It is very important to reach a social pact.

[ULTIMA HORA] Why couldn't the PLRA form alliances with other parties or political movements?

[Laino] We have already reached an agreement with Paraguay for All, and in a few days we will conclude another alliance on which I cannot report, because negotiations are being held without telling anything to the press, because we want this project to succeed.

[ULTIMA HORA] Why have relations between the PLRA and the National Encounter passed from friendly to aggressive?

[Laino] Because of its political tactics, it would have been very difficult for the National Encounter to form an alliance with us.

[ULTIMA HORA] Why?

[Laino] They based their policy in attracting voters from other parties, those who are mad at party leaders, who did not win the internal struggle for a nomination to elective posts. Those are the people who join the National Encounter. When we proposed an alliance, I even mentioned my possible resignation of my candidacy.

[ULTIMA HORA] What happened thereafter?

[Laino] They replied that the National Encounter could not be rendered blue. We considered that they were promoting a policy of attracting Colorado Party votes. I believe this was a mistake, because now we are being supported by many Colorado Party members.

[ULTIMA HORA] Could you mention three priorities of your PLRA government?

[Laino] One of them is governability, for which purpose it is essential to achieve integration within the government. This means that we should begin with a change, with a government style in which the main posts are filled by men and women from all political parties.

In turn, Mercosur [Common Market of the South] is a good path, the only path for promoting economic development and for raising the standards of living of our people. We could hardly engage in any integration plan at a regional or Southern Cone level while we have not yet achieved integration at home.

[ULTIMA HORA] What do we Paraguayans need to achieve integration at home?

[Laino] We are very far from it. Paraguay has been marked by a policy imposed from above, a policy that promoted division and confrontation, a policy that caused social disintegration and disunity. Part of this was the messages of the Colorado government of General Alfredo Stroessner. Now we have the Colorado government of General Rodriguez. This distorts what a government should be. A government should be a national government, a government by everyone.

[ULTIMA HORA] Is it possible to modernize the state with current public servants remaining where they are?

[Laino] It is possible to keep a vast majority of public servants, because the state reform that we propose goes far beyond reduction and privatization, although it also includes them.

[ULTIMA HORA] What is the gist of the reform that you are proposing?

[Laino] It involves a change in ideas. It is necessary to correct this wrong idea of the state as an institution that favors supporters and grants provileges. The state should be assigned the right definition and the right philosophy. In the first place, the state should stop producing, because production is an activity of the private sector. We want to reduce the state without increasing the unemployment rate. We will keep low-level employees.

[ULTIMA HORA] Who will be dismissed?

[Laino] Those of the higher levels, whom I call the "crammers," who earn very high compensations equivalent to the salaries paid to 30 or 40 low-level employees. Otherwise, we would seem to be enforcing a policy of revanchism, which we by no means want in our national government, for which we will request the active participation of Colorado Party members.

Bomb Scare Against Television Station Reported

PY2804221893 Lambare Paraguay Radio Cardinal in Spanish 2110 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Live report during Menchi Barriocanal's daily radio show with telephone call from Leo Cohan, production manager for Asuncion RPC TV]

[Excerpt] [Menchi Barriocanal] We are now in contact with Leo Cohan. Good afternoon Leo, how are you?

[Cohan] Good afternoon to you Menchi and your great audience at Radio Cardinal. Well, there are always surprises. I would like to give you information but without alarming anybody. I want all RPC TV station employees to remain calm. We received a telephone call from an individual who identified himself, indicating with certainty that a explosive device, a bomb, would explode in one to two hours here in the installations of this television station and radio station [Radio Cardinal]. Of course this is hard to believe; it is incredible, but we have taken the necessary precautions just in case. Security personnel from our own company are checking every corner of the installations to confirm the bomb's existence. Let us hope that this is nothing more than a bad joke because it would be quite unpleasant for something like this to happen when we are getting close to such an important event [the general elections].

[Barriocanal] When was the telephone call received?

[Cohan] This afternoon in the television station's administrative department. An individual who identified himself called saying he knew about the bomb. [passage omitted]

Court Orders Former Stroessner Official's Early Release

PY2704224493 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 24 Apr 93 p 58

[Excerpts] Following a Supreme Court of Justice ruling, Adan Godoy Jimenez, the indicted former public health and social welfare minister, was granted early release yesterday afternoon. After serving two-thirds of a sentence of five years and six months, handed down against him by lower and higher courts, the last imprisoned Stroessnerist militant left his detention center—the Special Group premises. [passage omitted]

The Militant 'Cream' Back on the Streets

Godoy Jimenez was the last Stroessnerist militant to be released. Other released militants were Delfin Ugarte Centurion, J. Eugenio Jacquet, Ramon Aquino, Juan Eudes Pereira, Justo Eris Almada—at large, Cesaro Romero Acosta—deceased, Mario Abdo Benitez, Carlos Ortiz Ramirez, Raul Ernesto Villalba, and Vidal Benitez Alarcon.

Former Interior Minister Sabino Augusto Montanaro's asylum in Honduras continues and his criminal trials in Paraguay are pending.

Thus, the Stroessnerist militants "cream" have served their "sentences" and those who, along with the tyrant Stroessner, ruled our country are now on the streets again.

Nevertheless, despite the criminal sentences, the state has not yet recovered the millions of guaranies diverted by the militants because the Attorney General's Office—incredibly enough—has not filed a civil suit yet to have the embezzled goods restored to their proper owners.

Peru

Editorial Criticizes Clinton's Comments on Peru

PY2804031693 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 21 Apr 93 p A23

[Editorial by Patricio Ricketts Rey de Castro: "Worse and Worse"]

[Text] When someone has nothing reasonable to say, it is better to remain silent. Particularly, if that someone is a chief of state. With all the more reason, if this person is the chief of state of a superpower with binding international ties that are not exempt from deterioration. In his case everything is magnified: Vacuities are disappointing, arrogance is irritating—if not aggravating—mistakes are discrediting, and insincerity erodes respect.

Had President Clinton only uttered the three or four standard protocol phrases common in all ceremonies of presentation of credentials of new ambassadors, we still would believe we were on the verge of a new era of normal, if not auspicious, U.S.-Peruvian ties. After listening to what Peruvian Ambassador Ricardo Luna Mendoza said, we know this is not and will never be the case.

Clinton refuses to acknowledge the golden rule of good international relations: to refrain from intervening in the domestic affairs of other countries. He also has been unable to understand what role Latin America expects him to play, which, for that matter, is not that of a preacher or a judge.

As far as Peru is concerned, he seems to not know anything about it: what has happened, what is happening, and what it is likely to happen. What is more, he overlooks common interests and responsibilities—even the most important ones—we share before our two nations and the entire world in our capacity of being the

top cocaine-producing country and the top cocaine-consuming country in the world. Incredibly enough, there is something else he is overlooking: the disgrace of international opportunism that—behind the excuse of democratic discipline—lauds the referendum in Russia but rejects the one held in Peru.

Lack of Credentials

Because one deserves respect only if one respects others, we must speak of Clinton with the same disrespect with which he treats Peru. In the first place, who is he to assume this peculiar role of sheriff [preceding word in English] of democracy? Because he chooses to question the legitimacy of the Peruvian Government, we may also ask ourselves how legitimate is Clinton's own government? With his "overwhelming" 43 percent victory, Clinton would have been unable to be elected president in Peru. In Peru's imperfect election system, Clinton's insufficient number of popular votes would not have allowed him to obtain a decisive 88 percent of electoral votes while his opponent, Perot—who got 19 percent of the popular votes—obtained zero electoral votes. Which only goes to show that Clinton's election system is also full of distortions. In other words, Clinton's democracy can be criticized as much as Peru's democracy. Ambassador Luna is aware of this, but he did not throw this in Clinton's face. Why couldn't Clinton measure up to him?

The Right To Make Mistakes

If we were to judge Clinton by his indiscretions, we would be admitting his right to make mistakes. He is not pleased with Peruvian democracy. "In a true democracy"—he tells us—"the executive branch must grant the legislative branch complete independence and autonomy." What foolishness! Since when and in what country is congressional independence a government concession? From the legal point of view, it is established by the law; in the practical sense, it is the people's will. The government will have a majority in congress—as is the case in the CCD [Democratic Constituent Congress]—only if it is the will of the people; and at any rate, it will have to work in order to overcome any opposition in the legislature. This is what Clinton does every day, does he not? Clinton claims the need for a "consensus" in Peru, but he rules with a strict partisan criteria at home.

In sum, any interventionism is bad. Worse yet if it is based on Clinton's erroneous concepts. Worse than worse when this is accompanied by $15 million in "aid" compared with the $1.5 billion produced by narcotrafficking, and when Clinton speaks of acceleration, doubling efforts, and an all-out campaign. Big words are hilarious. And all this seems to lead to another mere nuisance.

Prosecution Begun Against Alan Garcia; Arrest Ordered

PY2704154493 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 14 Apr 93 p A1

[Text] Supreme Court Justice Carlos Hermoza Moya yesterday filed prosecution proceedings, with an order of arrest, against former President Alan Garcia Perez, as there is an imbalance between his income and expenditures during his administration as a result of the purchase of several properties and real estate.

In practice these charges will add to the current investigation being carried out by Judge Hermoza Moya on Garica Perez's involvement in the alleged resale of Mirage planes that Peru acquired from France after the fleet was decreased from 26 to 12.

Moreover, Garcia Perez is being investigated for his involvement in the transference of national reserves to the controversial BCCI-Panama [International Credit and Commercial Bank, Panama] because of a six-digit bribe of Peruvian officials and others allowing fraudulent banking transactions.

The bribe case is being investigatged by Judge Arturo Vilchez Requejo of the Lima Criminal Court. Garcia Perez has not been included in this legal process, unlike several Central Reserve Bank officials such as Brian Jensen Rubio, Hector Neyra Chavarri, Leoneol Figueroa Ramirez, and others.

One of the first measures to be adopted by Judge Hermoza Moya's office will be to submit, through the Foreign Ministry, a written questionnaire to Garcia Perez, who has been residing in Bogota, Colombia since June 1992.

The possibility that Judge Hermoza Moya will request Garcia Perez's extradition sometime in the future has been categorically rejected, as he had attempted previously to do so, but unsuccessfully, as Colombian officials refused to allow the former Peruvian president to be tried in Lima.

APRA Member Calls For New Leadership

PY2704191093 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 11 Apr 93 p A7

[Text] The withdrawal from the country of Alan Garcia Perez has definitely affected his ability as an effective leader within the APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] party, although it does not imply denying his position as an important figure within the party, taking into account the fact that he still enjoys great support in party circles as the first APRA president.

This statement was made yesterday by engineer Abel Salinas, president of the National Planning Commission of APRA (Conaplan), in referring to the current crisis

affecting that political organization. He made these remarks upon returning to the country after four months of self-exile to Argentina.

Salinas said his opinion is based on an objective analysis of the situation "and with no intention of creating further divisions and confrontations within the APRA." "Changing leaders does not preclude good manners," he said. He added that "reality has demonstrated that Alan Garcia's withdrawal from the country has reduced his ability to be a leader, and consequently his leadership tends to vanish and disappear."

"I think today more than ever the APRA must demonstrate that it is capable of choosing its own path, without the presence of Alan Garcia," Salinas said, in a clear and categorical criticism of the manner in which the old party of Haya de la Torre has been managed.

He said that there is a strong grassroots desire for renewal. "This marks a different view from what has been done so far, when the idea was to hoist the banner of modernization and change, but from above," he said.

He thus conveyed his agreement with sectorial leaders who demand the organization of a special congress "from the grassroots up" to decide on the change in leadership. Concerning the programmatic meeting promoted by the CEN [National Statutes Commission], he said that this is not the appropriate way to resolve problems. Neither is it a plenum, he said, and in any case it is but an initial step in the renewal process.

"In a debate, the revision of subjects that have generated controversy, criticism, and have ruined expectations cannot be omitted," he said. Those subjects are, for instance, the statist theory. "We must clearly explain that the APRA, and especially Haya de la Torre, had no doctrinal proposal referring to economic management by the state. On the contrary, we should have agreed with the communist countries, and on this matter Haya de la Torre marked a clear difference," he said.

Neither is there any concept opposing free competition. "It would be absurd to do so. What is needed to compete freely is that there must be equal conditions," he said.

In a self-criticism, Salinas admitted that decisions had been adopted during the APRA government which were incompatible with this thesis, as "what was happening in the world was not taken into consideration, and especially that socialism was on the brink of collapse."

"What was needed in the country at that time were the watchmen, following the style of Victor Andres Belaunde and Victor Raul Haya de la Torre, who were always watching what was happening internationally. We thus ended up making proposals out of season," he said.

"All that is in addition to the lack of leadership aptitude, or ability to maintain and institutionalize room within the APRA party for disagreement and debate which would lead to something significant, which is dialogue," he added.

Concerning the congress, he said that in order to be a really useful event, it must be broad and open; and consequently, as the first requirement, it is essential that no CEN member participate in the organizing commission.

CCD Limits Executive's Authority To Legislate on Taxes

PA2804190193 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] The Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD] Constitution Committee has initiated debates on the tax bill, which was prepared by the CCD Budget Committee. The bill states that it is everyone's duty to contribute to the country's public expenses in accordance with their economic capabilities.

Article 1 indicates that personal, geographic, sectorial, or any other type of privileges cannot be established. This paragraph has created a controversy because many congressmen feel that exonerations are applicable in emergency cases. The committee voted against tax exemptions except those expressly stated in the Constitution and international agreements or established by the law.

One of the main issues was the executive's authority to pass tax laws. The executive is not, in any case, authorized to conduct such legislation through emergency decrees as in the past.

Article 5 on domestic and foreign indebtedness, as well as other articles, are still pending debate and will be discussed during the 28 April session.

Meanwhile, Lourdes Flores Nano of the Popular Christian Party and Henry Pease of the Left-Wing Democratic Movement resumed work in the Constitution Committee after withdrawing last week due to problems with the Armed Forces, which have since been resolved.

Poll on Support for Fujimori, Reelection, Economic Policy

PY2304132993 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 12 Apr 93 p A6

[Text] If a plebiscite were held to be held, 48 percent of Peruvians would vote for the reelection of the president. Likewise, 47 percent of the population would reelect President Alberto Fujimori in the 1995 election.

This is the result of a public opinion poll conducted by the firm Apoyo at the request of Channel 5 Television Network program Panorama, which was broadcast yesterday evening.

Of those polled, 44 percent said they disapproved of the government's economic policy, while 41 percent approved of it.

Some 36 percent of those polled believe Economy and Finance Minister Jorge Camet is at the helm of the economic policy, while 33 percent believe Fujimori pulls the strings.

Government Declares State of Emergency in Piura

PA2804184593 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1808 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] The government, acting on a request by the Peruvian Armed Forces Joint Command, has declared a state of emergency in Huacabamba Province, Piura Department. The state of emergency will be in effect for 30 days, during which constitutional guarantees will be suspended to facilitate the struggle against subversion.

Shining Path Organization in Prison Viewed

PY2704231193 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 12 Apr 93 pp 14, 15

[Article by "The Investigative Unit"]

[Text] Despite strict measures to prevent Shining Path inmates of the Miguel Castro Castro maximum security prison from recovering control of the wards, they are militarily organized and have a plan to escape.

An undercover agent of the National Counterterrorism Directorate, Dincote, 15 days ago intercepted a document written by the Shining Path inmates representative. The document was addressed to the Shining Path Central Committee.

The document was signed by "Comrade Emilio" of the "enlightened combat trench of Canto Grande." It is a detailed report of the life of those inside the prison.

The document is divided into six parts (ideological structure, political structure, organizational structure, conduct, the two-line struggle, and the line of masses). The report describes the incredible organization that Shining Path members have achieved in a place where imprisonment conditions are very strict.

Five weeks ago the government allowed television crews to enter Castro Castro prison to verify the strict conditions imposed on the terrorist inmates, compared with the conditions under which they lived when they practically controlled their wards and did not allow strangers in.

The television crews filmed the narrow cells, the bombardment of pacification messages through loudspeakers inside the prison, the lack of physical contact between the inmates and their families, the laments of repented subversives, and other aspects that demonstrated very strict treatment.

The intercepted document shows that behind the scenes, however, the followers of Abimael Guzman Reinoso have developed an incredible organization that includes a security organization to denounce, beat, and separate those who are liable to repent and cooperate with the authorities.

"Comrade Emilio"—everything indicates that he is the Shining Path inmates representative before the Central Committee—informs his chiefs that "based on our ideology and policy we are building an organizational structure by raising it to the Political Directorate level."

"Emilio" says that there are 108 members, divided in three "blocks" and most of the time they are locked up.

In Castro Castro prison the Shining Path members are organized around a "Direction System" that is organized in the following manner:

a) A labor commission, comprising seven subversives, plays the role of a "detachment," that is, it carries out military missions.
b) A direction commission in each "block" is made up of five members a secretary, an assistant secretary, a person responsible for the main force, one responsible for the base force, and another responsible for a local force.
c) A mobile network and a territorial network establish the position of each inmate in case of a military action.
d) A people's school.
e) An investigative commission "to control people with problems."
f) A sports commission.
g) An artistic activities commission.
h) A juridical commission
i) A farming commission

The subversives have a 30 minute stroll in the prison yard and apparently that is when they meet. According to Emilio, these meeting are held "periodically."

This short time has been enough to allow them "to make great strides to ideologically and politically unite our militants and combatants (...), by studying, debating, applying the materials we have, and reinforcing the firm position assumed by all members to study, debate, and apply the document. We emphasize the need to 'defend the health and life of President Gonzalo with our own lives,' understanding the difficult, complex but victorious situation in which we are living, sure that the revolution will triumph inevitably. The detention of our dear and respected President Gonzalo is nothing but a curve in the road."

The inmates do not just have a bible to read, as allowed by the prison authorities, they also have party documents. They have some other facilities that have allowed them to develop a "Heroic Resistance Plan" which is a strategy to provoke mutinies, seeking to gain control, little by little, of the prison. This includes an escape plan: "We are aware of the political possibilities outside; given the conditions we find we are developing, for this reason, an Operational Intelligence Plan that is being taken care of by the security apparatus," Emilio states.

Among the activities carried out with that purpose, the Shining Path inmates representative states: "As part of our work, we are developing (contacts) with different types of people such as employees, common inmates, etc. who sympathize with the party, which is well accepted by them."

"There is a firm position among militants and combatants to keep up the Heroic Resistance Plan under new conditions, specifying further and better ways to implement the Active Defense Plan," "Emilio" writes. He adds: "We are developing our party work in an increasinly reserved manner because the reactionary element (the government) is trying to find the Direction System. It has acquired some information through the rotten liberalism that has been experienced here, in which I have a special interest." Later "Emilio" confesses that, undoubtedly, a previous document was seized by the police which prompted serious problems. But he has repeated the same error.

To prove what he is writing, "Comrade Emilio" outlines to his leaders a chain of actions inside the "Miguel Castro Castro Prison:" "We have taken giant steps in implementing the plan by developing agitation, propaganda, and threats, confronting the inspections with intelligence and strategic planning and acts of celebrations and artistic and sports activities, which have strengthened the unity of the entire contingent."

He talks about a government measure that has begun to hurt the Shining Path members held at the Castro Castro prison: the Repentence Law.

"Comrade Emilio" confesses that "the main problem we are encountering is capitulation because of the loss of perspective among some individuals."

He cites three inmates who represent a headache to him: "They are the most serious," the representative states. "We believe one must have been giving information on people he knew in his group. He has been isolated and is watched round-the-clock. He must assume the consequences of his capitulation."

The second has "similar problems," but he refuses to leave the compound of Shining Path inmates. For this reason "a contingent has attacked and beaten him, but he still refuses to leave. He even apologized for having threatened to accuse all of us."

"Emilio" says: "The third is a miserable traitor who denounced all members of the Dirrection System in the Heroic Resistance," referring to the group of Shining Path members who led the May 1992 riot when leaders Yovanka Pardave Trujillo, Tito Valle Travezano, and Deodato Juarez Cruzatt among others died. "He capitulated and escaped through the window. The decision of the Canto Grande Board was to anihilate him, but the conditions there were not appropriate and the conditions here are still not favorable."

The undesirables—those who repented—have been identified with numbers, and according to the subversive representative, there are 14.

"The numbers between four and 12 are people of low ideological level (...), and we cannot leave them one single minute (...) and we have reasons to redouble our control, for instance, in the cases of numbers four, seven and nine. Number 14 has strong psychological problems. His obsession was to leave prison. He is a psychologically sick person. He is no longer with us. He is among the common prisoners."

Because of the effects of the government campaign, "Emilio" tells the Shining Path Central Committee that "we will intensify the struggle against repentance, a sinister counterrevolutionary campaign."

Every Shining Path document describes internal problems as a consequence of the arrest of its leadership.

"Emilio" describes the problem as being of "ideological unity" but surpasses this when he talks of members who disagree, or who, for example, question the detonation of car-bombs in defenseless settlements, the decision to give up their lives for unworthy leaders ("I will not give my life for so-and-so"), the many postponements, or the underestimation of the organization ("I cannot abstain myself from certain needs, I am a warrior").

"Comrade Emilio" even says there are sectors within the Shining Path that maintain the slogan "Defend the directorate from the genocidal dictatorship" before that of "Defend the life of President Gonzalo."

"Emilio" believes that this change of slogans represents "a sham questioning to our leadership" that is, of "President Gonzalo."

These are problems that, despite the narrowness of the "Miguel Castro Castro" prison, the inmates are "discussing, debating, and applying" in their cells, which equipped with documents and the materials necessary for their "ideological unity." They also beat on "the weak" and the repented.

Police Seize Large Cocaine Base Cargo in Alto Huallaga

PY2704031093 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 8 Apr 93 p A 7

[Excerpt] A cargo of 1,174 kg of washed basic cocaine paste, valued at $3 million on the international market, was seized by members of the Antidrugs Directorate of the PNP [National Peruvian Police] (Dirandro) when they raided a warehouse in the jungles of Maranon Province, Huanuco Department.

During the raid, carried out with UHIH and Bell 212 helicopter gunships belonging to the DEA, the person in charge of the installations which contained the drug was arrested. Weapons were also seized.

During a news conference at the Dirandro headquarters on Republica de Chile Avenue, it was reported that the drug presumably belongs to the "firm" (a drug-trafficking organization) called Champa, and that the drug was going to be taken to Colombia.

The raid took place on 4 April, when intelligence reports were received about the narco hideout in the area of Ramal, Aspuzana.

Members of the Santa Lucia (Alto Huallaga) Antidrugs Base, DEA agents, and the special prosecutor for Alto Huallaga went to the Ramal area in the jungle area of Huanuco, where they found th einstallations.

When they heard the noise of the engines of the helicopters, some of the drug traffickers were able to escape in the jungle.

Another three traffickers, including Segundo Jose Diaz Gomez, 25, were not able to escape and were captured by the police.

Another trafficker dived into the Huallaga River where he was pursued by a policeman, who jumped at a height of 20 meters from a helicopter, but the trafficker was able to escape because he was a good swimmer.

The policeman was hauled out of the river with ropes that were thrown to him from the helicopter. [passage omitted]

Uruguay

Lacalle Departs for Belgium for Mercosur Talks

PY2704014493 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] In Brussels tomorrow, President Luis Alberto Lacalle will meet with the ambassadors of Mercosur [Common Market of the South] countries. The meeting, which will take place at the Uruguayan Embassy, will be Lacalle's first official activity in the Kingdom of Belgium. One hour later, the president will meet with the president of the European Parliament, thus concluding his agenda on the first day of his official visit.

The president left at noon today from Carrasco International Airport—where he was saluted with the honors appropriate to his rank—after the traditional ceremony in which he transferred power to Vice President Gonzalo Aguirre.

The president's agenda includes meetings with Belgian King Baudouin, the president of the European Commission, the president of the Chamber of Deputies, the Belgian president, and Belgian entrepreneurs.

The president is accompanied by the Foreign Affairs Minister Sergio Abreu, Finance Minister Ignacio de Posadas, Agricultural Minister Pedro Saravia, and Industry and Energy Minister Eduardo Ache. The presidential entourage also includes entrepreneurs of the chamber of industries and the export area.

Upon returning from Brussels, the president will officially announce a package of measures to promote the industrial exporting areas. The measures provide for tariff reduction for the importation of capital goods and raw materials. Capital goods are considered essential for industrial reconversion, while raw materials are essential for promoting production.

At the same time, a new value will be set for the general statistic import tariff, which will reduce competition on the local market, which Uruguayan industrialists consider unfair. Import tariffs will thus be equal to those used in neighboring countries.

It has been learned that during the president's trip to Brussels, industrialists and exporters will meet with the president in order to polish a package of measures and improve Uruguayan productivity.

To Discuss Trade, GATT Talks

PY2804134593 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Excerpt] President Luis Alberto Lacalle began today in Brussels a 3-day official visit to Belgium and the EC aimed at strengthening political and commercial dialogue. The conclusion of the Uruguay round of the GATT talks and EC protectionist practices will be the main topics on Lacalle's agenda during his meetings with EC and Belgian officials.

Lacalle will participate in a meeting of the EC-Uruguay Commission to discuss important projects in infrastructure and investments. The purpose of this meeting is to attract foreign investments to Uruguay. Shortly after arriving in Brussels, Lacalle held a working meeting with representatives from Mercosur [Common Market of the South] member countries—that is, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay. Another purpose of his meetings with EC officials is to reinforce EC and Mercosur trade exchange.

Lacalle's visit follows a meeting between EC and Rio Group foreign ministers, which includes Uruguay, in Copenhagen three days ago to discuss economic and political cooperation.

The Latin American representatives complained to their EC counterparts about EC restrictions on agriculture exports, and asked for more trade freedom. Tomorrow Lacalle will meet with EC President Jacques Delors and Manuel Marin, European official responsible for Latin America. After the meeting Lacalle will hold a news conference. Uruguay signed a third generation cooperation agreement with the EC in 1991. This agreement is a more advanced agreement, and includes scientific and technological cooperation.

Lacalle, who will be received by King Baudouin, will meet with the president of the Belgian Congress and the president of the Foreign Relations Committee on 29 April. Lacalle will also meet with the Belgian foreign minister. Before leaving the country he will visit the Belgian Companies Federation.

In Madrid, the president advocated concluding the Uruguay round of the GATT talks to deregulate world trade, though admitting that he was not very optimistic. We are advocating this without much hope for an effective conclusion to the Uruguay round of the GATT talks. We would like Europeans to think about agricultural issues and subsidies in longer terms, Lacalle said at Madrid's Barajas Airport before leaving for Brussels. [passage omitted]

Visiting Iranian Delegation Seeks To Increase Trade

PY2804153493 Montevideo LA MANANA in Spanish 22 Apr 93 p 2

[Text] Iran has renewed its interest in enhancing negotiations with Uruguay. In this regard Iran has sent its agriculture minister and agriculture under secretary, who met with the Uruguayan agriculture minister.

Iranian Agriculture Minister Dr. 'Isa Kalantari and Agriculture Vice Minister Hassan Tabatacih [name and title as published] held a long meeting with Minister Dr. Pedro Saravia in his office at noon yesterday.

In addition to the usual announcements of enhancing the commercial ties between the two countries, a government source reported that the visitors intend to renew the purchase of sheep and mutton.

As is known, five years ago Iran was one of the main buyers of this type of livestock. This situation was interrupted largely due to the war against Iraq, and subsequently because of the conflict situation in the Persian Gulf. It also prompted the closing of a meat packing plant established in Durazno Department whose exclusive goal was to carry out the slaughtering and dressing of the meat for these Islamic markets.

The Iranian officials will visit several plants and hold meetings with exporters, cattlemen, and with other Uruguayan Government officials to pursue the negotiations. Other lines, such as wool, leather, and some dairy products, were also mentioned.

Venezuela

Student Disturbances Break Out in Caracas 27 Apr

PA2704170293 Paris AFP in Spanish 1556 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Caracas, 27 Apr (AFP) - According to reporters at the scene, students from two Caracas high schools as well as from the Central University of Venezuela (UCV) protested in the street in the morning of 27 April and caused a tremendous traffic jam.

The disturbances occurred shortly after 230,000 teachers decided to launch an indefinite strike on 26 April to demand improvements in their standard of living. The teachers strike affects nearly 6 million public school students throughout Venezuela.

The disturbances occurred during the morning of 27 April at the Caballero Mejias and Instituto Pedagogico El Paraiso high schools in the Caracas neighborhood of Antinamo, which is in the western and midwestern part of the Venezuelan capital city.

There were also violent student protests at the UCV in the strategic mideastern part of Caracas.

Police sirens could still be heard in downtown Caracas at 1140, and a major police deployment has been observed.

Copei Names Alvarez Paz Presidential Candidate

PA2804143493 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Excerpt] For the first time in Venezuelan history, a political party has held open elections to choose its candidate. On 26 April, elections were held to choose the representative of the green [Social Christian] party. Oswaldo Alvarez Paz, governor of Zulia State, became the candidate of the Social Christian Party, Copei, by an overwhelming victory. He won more than 60 percent of the votes. This was a pioneer experience in our country.

Felipe Montilla, president of the Copei Electoral Committee, thanked all the Venezuelan people for their civic response in this electoral process. Montilla, surrounded by the top party leaders, said official results of the 25 April elections would be released on 26 April. He said, however, that preliminary vote counts indicate a 60-percent victory for Alvarez Paz. According to these preliminary figures, the polls closed with 33 percent in favor of Dr. Eduardo Fernandez and 5 percent for Humberto Calderon Berti.

Eduardo Fernandez acknowledged the victory of his fellow party member from his campaign headquarters in the Campo Claro neighborhood in Caracas. [passage omitted]

Perez Praises Copei Primary Elections

PA2804003893 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] President Carlos Andres Perez said that internal elections in the Democratic Action Party and the Social Christian Party, Copei, are a demonstration of civic-mindedness and support for the democratic system, and a confirmation that Venezuelans want to elect their leaders.

Perez stressed that the way in which internal elections were held within the country's two main political organizations were an excellent school for the citizens' education, contradicting voices that announced disturbances and confrontations among candidates. He added that in recent times, political parties have shown that they are well-organized and civic-minded. Naturally, people said they want to see their candidates on the streets defending their respective ideological views.

[Begin Perez recording] It was a great demonstration. I congratulate Copei's National Directorate and candidates Oswaldo Alvarez Paz, Eduardo Fernandez, and Humberto Calderon Berti for the great demonstration of civic-mindedness and political education that they gave Venezuela. I must also congratulate the organizational commission headed by Senator Felipe Montilla for the magnificent organization of an event carried out in our country for the first time, with the participation in the party's internal elections of independent citizens and members of other political parties. We are happy. This is the best proof that the Venezuelan people still have faith in their democratic system. [end recording]